

What do you

VALUE MOST

about your Community?

Art both Visual & performing arts
Wireless internet
Small town feel you always run into

Our 2009-10
*Listening
Tour*

CITY of
SPRINGFIELD



What would you
most like to
CHANGE
about your
Community?

March 22, 2010

To: Mayor and Members of City Council
Chairs and Members of Long-Range Planning Groups
City Leadership Team

From: Louise Whall, Director of Public Information

Re: Listening Tour citizen input for long-range strategic planning process

Introduction

For more than six months, we listened. We listened to neighbors, community volunteers, students, business owners, young professionals, retirees, public and private employees, elected leaders, and more. They gathered in churches, restaurants, schools, board rooms and libraries. And we read – hundreds of responses were sent in online. All told, we heard from more than 1,400 people in this first-time effort to lay a foundation for the community's new strategic-planning process.

What we heard, as public servants, poses challenges, offers some order for priorities, and aligns with more scientific findings in other surveys, community reports and report cards. What we heard, as Springfield area residents ourselves, affirms much about why we live here. Those involved in this project would agree it was refreshing, civil, and should happen more often, even with the daily press of business. We believe this will provide valuable input for the long-range planning committees as they are starting on their work.

Methodology

The City conducted 38 "Listening Tour" sessions between July 2009 and March 2010. An online survey was posted on the City Web site from Dec. 22, 2009 to Feb. 28, 2010. The Listening Tour meetings ranged from fewer than 10 citizens to more than 100. We sent letters to nearly 170 community groups and accepted every invitation before the deadline. The list of Listening Tour meetings later in this report shows the net was cast broadly. A total of 271 people responded to the online survey. This was not intended to be a scientific sampling, but to draw as widely as possible from anyone interested in participating.

Information on the Listening Tour meetings and online survey was disseminated through contacts with community, civic and educational groups, news releases, the City Web site and TV channel, media coverage, and social networking tools.

The community meetings and the online survey asked the same four questions:

- What do you value most about Springfield?
- What would you most like to change about Springfield?

- What is your vision for 2030?
- How can you help us get there?

The respondents were asked to apply a broad definition of “Springfield” as the city proper, the urbanized area surrounding the city, and its position as a regional hub for southwest Missouri.

After receiving all of the input from the survey responses and meeting notes, City staff attempted to create general categories of responses to assist the planning groups in dissecting the wealth of comments. While we accepted all comments, some of them pertain to the responsibilities of other institutions. We will provide copies of the final report to them.

What follows this overview is a set of charts compressing the results into categories representing the topics with the most responses. The final section provides the complete set of comments from the online survey and notes from the community meetings.

What do you value most about Springfield?

“Still has small town feel. Open space within the city limits. Lots of big city amenities.”

“There are many things I like about the Springfield area including: Low cost of living, easy escape to lakes and rural areas, abundance of local entertainment and recreation, abundance of secondary education opportunities, good primary schools and friendly people.”

“As technology and innovation weaves itself deeper into the fabric of our growing metropolis, I find myself really enjoying the balance between the small-town feel of Springfield mixed with the creature comforts found in larger cities.”

“I like the quaint size, the central location, the seasons, the ease of commute, and the nice combination of commerce, community and cultural arts.”

“I value the fact that Springfield has the potential to improve. I have lived (in) several areas, where due to size, politics, etc., the potential to improve seemed lost.”

The strongest theme in this question underscores a basic dichotomy we found throughout the process. Respondents value both the characteristics and values that maintain the feel of a small town and the opportunities and amenities that our growth into a metropolitan area have presented. They want to protect core values of our community as we move into the future. They value our friendly nature; they also put a premium on maintaining our lower cost of living relative to other areas.

The relatively low crime rate and the feeling of security also ranked high; but respondents fear the potential for that to change, either from stressed public-safety budgets or other influences.

Recreational opportunities and appreciation for parks and greenways emerged near the top of what we value most. In addition to our local parks, facilities and trails, citizens value the fact that area lakes are only a short drive away; they can bike to the country in a matter of minutes; and we still enjoy adequate green space in our urban environment.

Another dichotomy is the perennial topic of traffic. A number of people cited a relative ease of traffic in our area and easy commutes. In the next question on what people would change, other perspectives emerge. At some public meetings, lively discussions on traffic emerged between “come heres” or frequent travelers, and long-time residents who have seen the steady rise in traffic volumes over the years.

Respect for our universities and public schools ranked very high as well; so did appreciation for our medical facilities, particularly the aspect of having two large health systems.

What would you most like to change about Springfield?

“Something to improve the flow of traffic, less cars? Would like to see more bike lanes. Better public transportation with easy to use routes.”

“I would like to decrease child abuse in the city and the surrounding areas – It’s a ‘red flag’ so let’s DO SOMETHING.”

“I wish there was a large convention-type center like the BOK in Tulsa.”

“I’d like to see more urban renewal. There are too many run down and boarded up buildings in town, which gives the impression Springfield is not as nice of a city as it actually is.”

“I want the tulips back in the street intersections.”

The highest number of categorical responses to this question related to transportation and traffic issues. Improving traffic flow and improving streets ranked highest. The perception of these respondents seems to be that Springfield has outgrown its traffic patterns; that traffic flow should be better synchronized; and that the roads don't have capacity to handle current congestion.

There also is significant interest in alternative transportation via improved public transportation options and more bike-friendly routes. While some respondents encouraged the idea of a new mass transit system, most focused on improvements in the current bus system that would encourage new users and make the system more appealing for current and new users.

Growth issues presented the next highest category. Improving the planning and zoning process and better property maintenance in the city were two key issues. Respondents would like to see a more streamlined development process; more infill; more emphasis on sustainability; and less urban sprawl. There is an emphasis on

protecting neighborhoods from property blight and other negative influences; beautifying neighborhoods and the city in general; and addressing stormwater issues.

There also were a number of responses related to public safety. As noted in the first question, respondents value their general sense of security, but also want to maintain and improve police and fire protection to make sure it stays that way. The concerns included vandalism, gang graffiti, the area's meth reputation, the impact of homelessness on safety, child and domestic abuse, and stronger enforcement of quality-of-life issues such as trash.

The fourth significant category in this question related to economic development and that included an array of responses. The largest subset was on job creation, particularly higher-paying industrial or high-tech jobs. While supporting local businesses is significant to many, others want to encourage more retail, particularly "big city" specialty chains, to open here. A number of references encouraged more center-city development, including addressing the Heer's Tower.

What is your vision for Springfield for 2030?

"That it is no longer a 'suburb in search of a city.' That it really becomes a professionally managed, thriving economic powerhouse in the state that makes St. Louis and Kansas City look backward and stagnant."

"A welcoming, open community. A continued emphasis on arts and culture, especially in center city. We need more community events, especially ones for the youth. Most importantly, we need to assure continued safety."

"Continue to keep our crime down and the feeling of a small town with big city opportunities!"

"A hip, cool, intellectual center for the Ozarks and Midwest with a high quality of life."

"To be clean, green, still thriving economically, have an incredibly low crime rate and schools rated the best in the country."

When this question was posed in the community meetings, we asked people to think big and without constraint. As a reference to the previous Vision 20/20 process, this was the one where respondents donned their "vision goggles" for a utopian Springfield – with a measured dose of Ozarks common sense.

The largest single category of responses related to Springfield's physical attributes. People want a clean city, with more emphasis on beautification efforts ranging from flower and vegetable gardens to public landscaping to getting rid of decrepit buildings. They want a green city – both figuratively and literally – ranging from "green" sustainability practices to "green" space in parks and trails.

Transportation goals were prevalent again in this question, but many comments focused on alternatives. They want a place where it's safe and easy to walk and bike more and drive less – in part, ideally, because there's less urban sprawl.

They used words like “vibrant” “mecca” “cosmopolitan” “prosperous” “business friendly” and “enjoyable density”.

There also was emphasis on a city rich with cultural, entertainment and community activities, particularly with a strong downtown core.

On the economic front, the refrain was similar to the responses of the other questions in terms of wanting more well-paying jobs, particularly for young people. Responses also focused on a well-managed, inclusive government that works on a regional basis, though responses varied on the appropriate balance of services.

How can you help us get there?

“Hold lots of brainstorming sessions. Only a few citizens may have the time to attend multiple committee meetings and/or the skills to help draft detailed plans, but most everyone can share ideas to help keep the process fresh.”

“Continue to work in the community and encourage family and friends that Springfield is a great place to call home.”

“Get involved, educate myself on what goes on in our city. I need to stay informed.”

“Vote; participate in government rather than just expecting government to take care of everything for me; make my voice heard.”

As the introduction to this question at the community meetings, City Manager Greg Burris talked about how the paradigm of government's role is changing from a patriarchal model to a “barnraising” model that relies on collaboration, partnerships and stronger connections among the public, private and volunteer sectors.

Ideally, it gives citizens more opportunity to determine our own destiny, but also carries more responsibility for everyone to participate in that process and build consensus about what is right for our community.

Getting involved, volunteering, encouraging others to get involved, supporting local business and voting were some of the main ways citizens think they can help the process. Many seemed encouraged by the Listening Tour process itself.

Respondents recognized their responsibility not only for educating themselves, but also for how they could encourage others to learn, participate and vote. They appreciate their networks of neighborhood groups, churches, and the local business community.

They also recognize their roles as stewards for a sustainable future by riding bikes, recycling and enticing “green” business to Springfield.

These responses offer a challenge and an opportunity for the planning groups and government in general to harness this civic energy and continue to use it throughout this process. It shows there remains a place and a purpose for the traditional town-hall meeting – couple that with the technology tools now available and the result should be engaged, informed citizens with a common motivation to make our community the best it can be with the resources available.

There also is a section of this report labeled Question 5. For the online survey, we offered a space for “Other Comments” and that is what this category reflects.

Conclusion

I would like to thank Sharon Spain, administrative assistant in Public Information, and Ashley Crites, an intern from Missouri State University, for their work in collating hundreds of responses into the general trend categories.

City Manager Greg Burris conceived of and conducted most of the community Listening Tour meetings. Others who deserve recognition for their assistance during this process include: City Councilman John Rush; Kathy Hardt and Collin Quigley, City Manager’s Office; Ralph Rognstad, Bob Hosmer and Olivia Hough, Planning and Development; Chris Akins, Mike Brothers, Claudia Crighton, Dave Cron, and Bruce Murrell, Public Information.

The Listening Tour was a beginning, so this is not an ending. This summary offers the broad themes that came out of the meetings and online survey. The attached appendix offers a wealth of emotions, ideas, frustrations, satisfaction and appreciation about where we live. We did not attempt to divide it into categories that more neatly fit each planning group; as you will see, the responses cannot be pigeonholed that easily. We would urge the planning groups to mine this body of input for feedback on the individual topics as well as for the themes that underscore all of the planning groups – regionalism, sustainability, minimizing the cycle of poverty, and increasing civic engagement. One suggestion might be to ask four members of each planning group to take one question each and summarize the responses specific to the group.

We would further encourage the planning groups to continue this process with your own ideas for “listening” throughout your work. We think you will be as heartened as we have been to see the interest in contributing to this effort.

Listening Tour Meetings

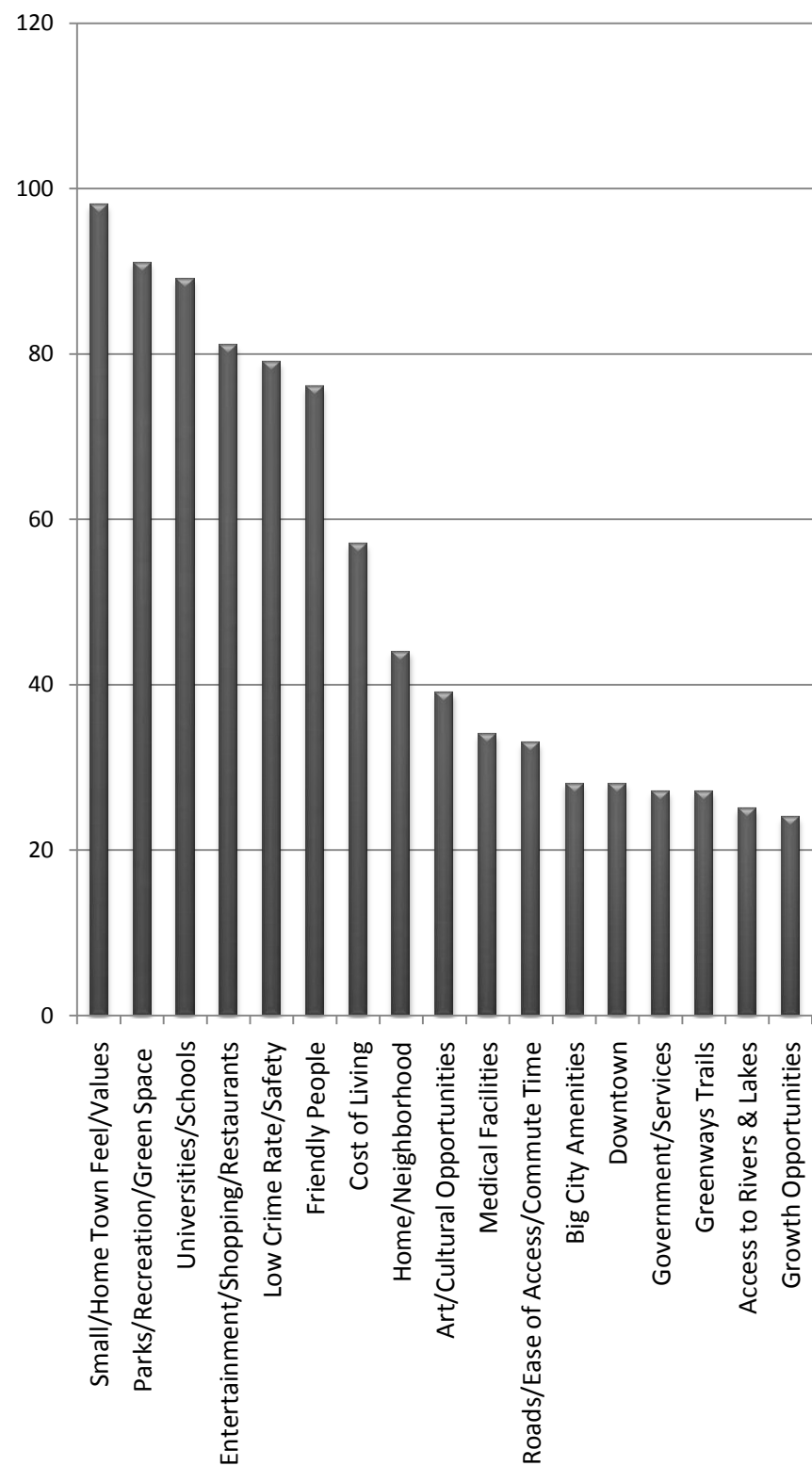
Date	Group	Estimated Attendance
July 15, 2009	Springfield Public Schools - Executive Staff	6
July 15, 2009	DIIG - Development Issues Input Group - Chamber of Commerce	25
September 24, 2009	Partners in Education / SPS 3rd Graders & Parents	426
October 21, 2009	City of Springfield Employees	100
October 27, 2009	City of Springfield - Public Works Employees	50
October 30, 2009	City of Springfield - Parks Employees	100
November 5, 2009	Junior League of Springfield	25
November 12, 2009	Women's Council of Realtors	30
November 16, 2009	MSU Executive Staff	12
November 19, 2009	Association of Retired Missouri State Employees	25
November 19, 2009	Glenwood Village Women's Club	12
November 21, 2009	NAACP	25
December 2, 2009	St. Paul Methodist LIFT Seniors Group	20
December 12, 2009	King's Way Methodist Men's Group	20
January 5, 2010	Commercial Club	15
January 6, 2010	Environmental Advisory Board	15
January 15, 2010	Urban Districts Alliance	25
January 19, 2010	West Central Neighborhood Alliance	12
January 21, 2010	Phelps Grove Neighborhood Association	25
January 22, 2010	Springfield Public Schools - Staff	50
January 22, 2010	City Utilities Executive Committee	8
January 29, 2010	Convention & Visitors Bureau - Board & Staff	20
January 29, 2010	Heart of the Ozarks Sertoma Club	40
February 5, 2010	Watershed Committee	30
February 8, 2010	Regional Health Commission	20
February 10, 2010	NARF - National Assn. of Active & Retired Federal Employees	50
February 16, 2010	Chamber of Commerce Board	20
February 17, 2010	Pleasant View School Student Group	20
February 18, 2010	Grant Beach/Mid-Town/Woodland Heights Neighborhood Assn.	70
February 18, 2010	Kickapoo High School Student Council	30
February 23, 2010	Mayor's Commission on Children	20
February 25, 2010	Mayor's Association of Greene County	10
February 26, 2010	Cox Health Administrative Team	15
February 26, 2010	University of Missouri Extension - Staff & Board	10
March 3, 2010	Kiwanis	18
March 3, 2010	University Men's Club	25
Total		1,424

Note: A second series of Listening Tours with Springfield Public Schools students is currently underway through early April. Additional information from those sessions will be provided to the Planning Groups in a follow-up report.

Question 1: What Do You Value Most About Springfield?
Summary of Contents by Topic

Small/Home Town Feel/Values	98
Parks/Recreation/Green Space	91
Universities/Schools	89
Entertainment/Shopping/Restaurants	81
Low Crime Rate/Safety	79
Friendly People	76
Cost of Living	57
Home/Neighborhood	44
Art/Cultural Opportunities	39
Medical Facilities	34
Roads/Ease of Access/Commute Time	33
Big City Amenities	28
Downtown	28
Government/Services	27
Greenways Trails	27
Access to Rivers & Lakes	25
Growth Opportunities	24
All Other	245
TOTAL	1,125

Question 1: What Do You Value Most About Springfield?

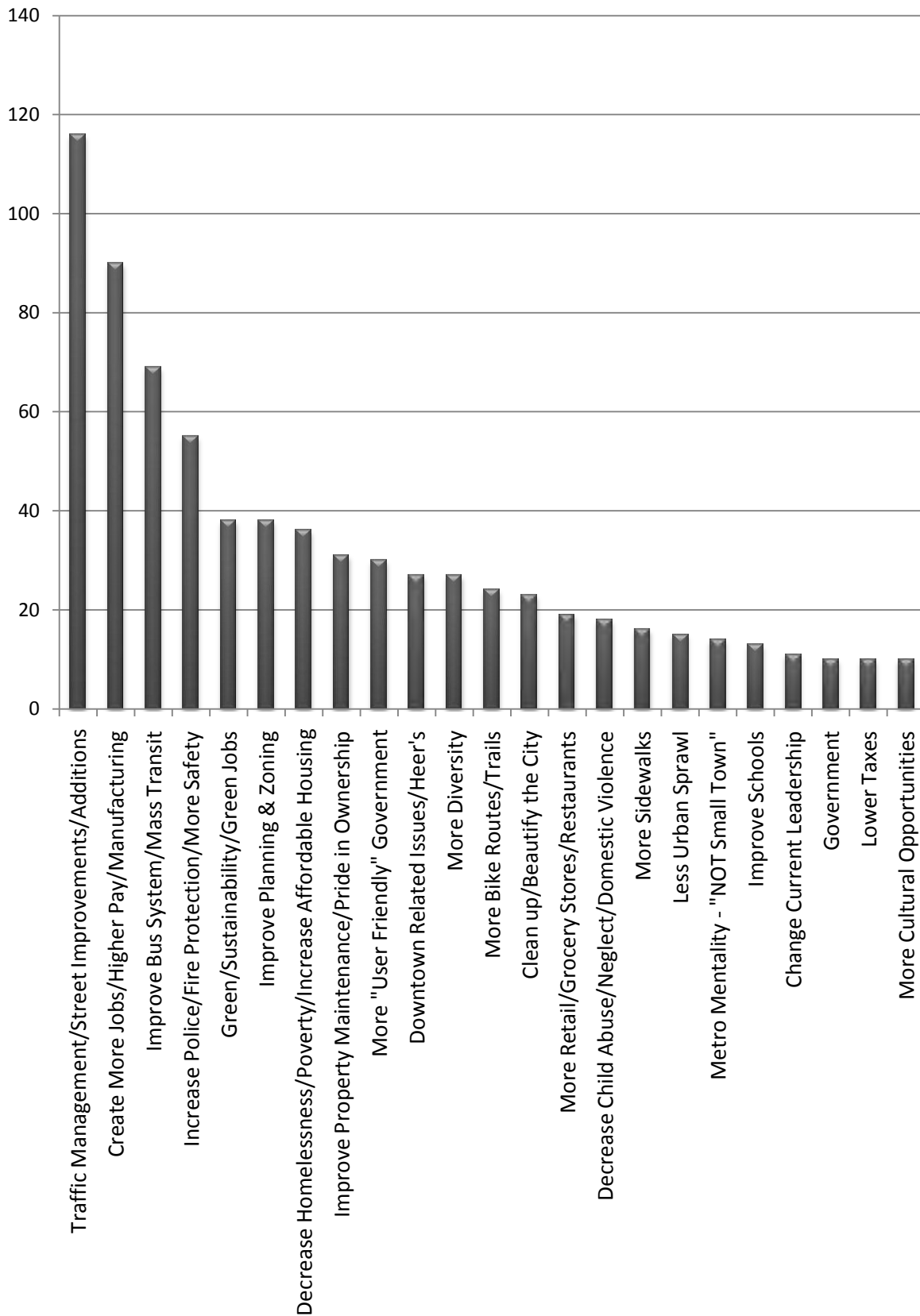


Question 2: What Would You Most Like to Change?

Summary of Comments by Topic

Traffic Management/Street Improvements/Additions	116
Create More Jobs/Higher Pay/Manufacturing	90
Improve Bus System/Mass Transit	69
Increase Police/Fire Protection/More Safety	55
Green/Sustainability/Green Jobs	38
Improve Planning & Zoning	38
Decrease Homelessness/Poverty/Increase Affordable Housing	36
Improve Property Maintenance/Pride in Ownership	31
More "User Friendly" Government	30
Downtown Related Issues/Heer's	27
More Diversity	27
More Bike Routes/Trails	24
Clean up/Beautify the City	23
More Retail/Grocery Stores/Restaurants	19
Decrease Child Abuse/Neglect/Domestic Violence	18
More Sidewalks	16
Less Urban Sprawl	15
Metro Mentality - "NOT Small Town"	14
Improve Schools	13
Change Current Leadership	11
Government	10
Lower Taxes	10
More Cultural Opportunities	10
All Other	288
TOTAL	1,028

Question 2: What Would You Most Like to Change?

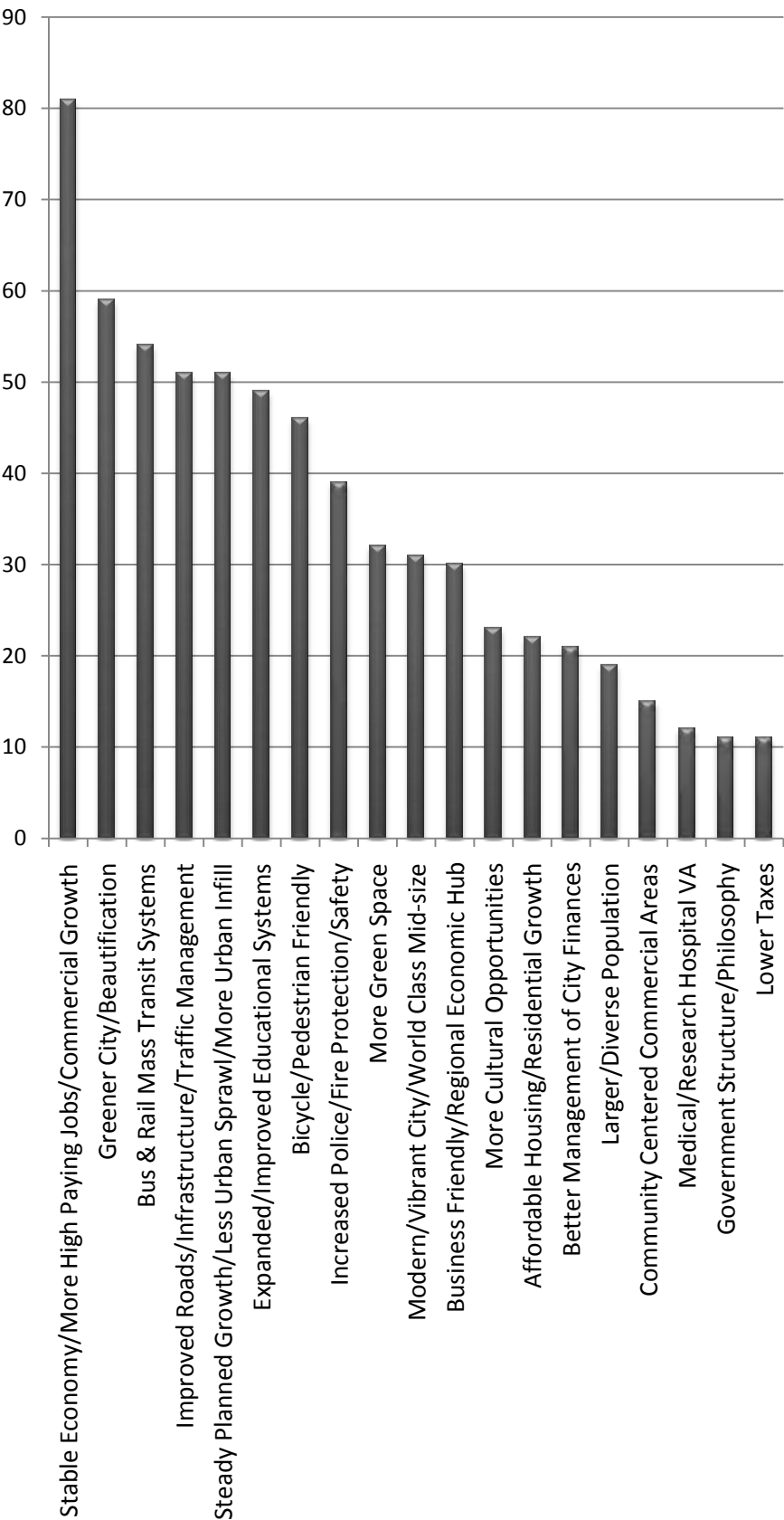


Question 3: What is Your Vision for 2030?

Summary of Comments by Topic

Stable Economy/More High Paying Jobs/Commercial Growth	81
Greener City/Beautification	59
Bus & Rail Mass Transit Systems	54
Improved Roads/Infrastructure/Traffic Management	51
Steady Planned Growth/Less Urban Sprawl/More Urban Infill	51
Expanded/Improved Educational Systems	49
Bicycle/Pedestrian Friendly	46
Increased Police/Fire Protection/Safety	39
More Green Space	32
Modern/Vibrant City/World Class Mid-size	31
Business Friendly/Regional Economic Hub	30
More Cultural Opportunities	23
Affordable Housing/Residential Growth	22
Better Management of City Finances	21
Larger/Diverse Population	19
Community Centered Commercial Areas	15
Medical/Research Hospital VA	12
Government Structure/Philosophy	11
Lower Taxes	11
All Other	252
TOTAL	909

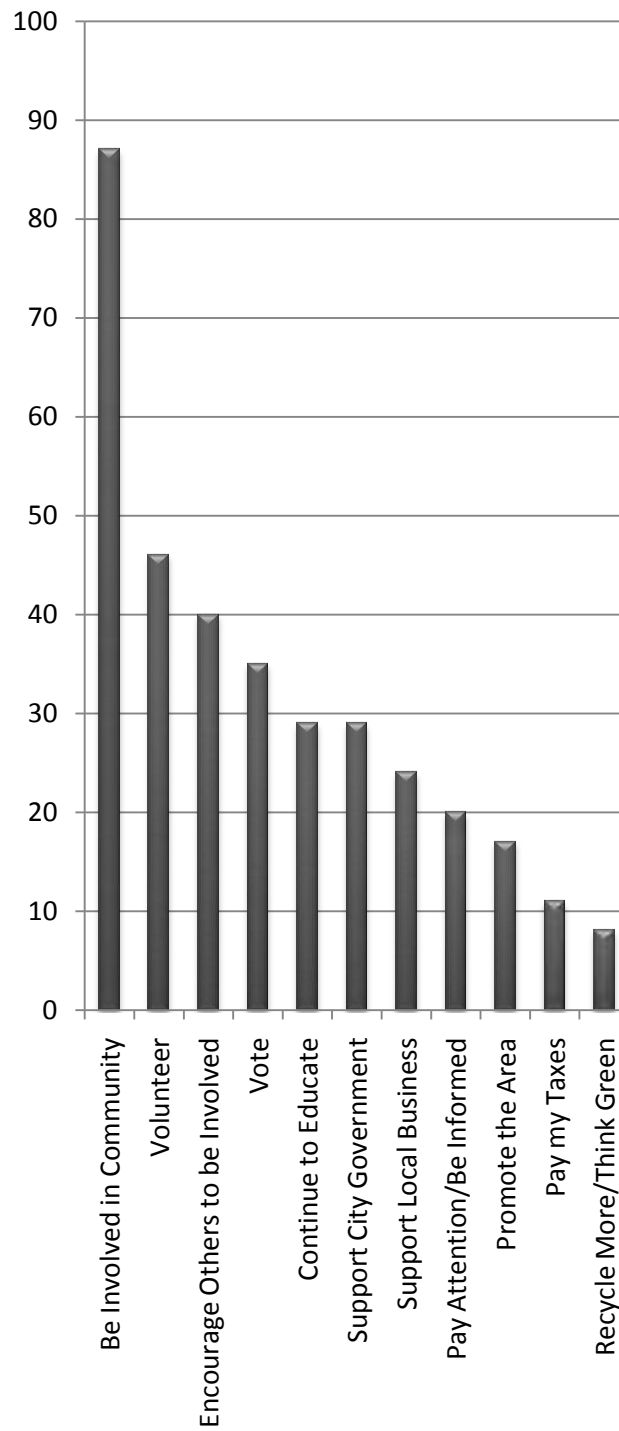
Question 3: What is Your Vision for 2030?



Question 4: How Can You Help?
Summary of Comments by Topic

Be Involved in Community	87
Volunteer	46
Encourage Others to be Involved	40
Vote	35
Continue to Educate	29
Support City Government	29
Support Local Business	24
Pay Attention/Be Informed	20
Promote the Area	17
Pay my Taxes	11
Recycle More/Think Green	8
All Other	129
TOTAL	475

Question 4: How Can You Help?



Q1 - What do you value most about the Springfield area?

The Christian morals and values.

The small businesses, the opportunities for growth, and the general low crime rate.

The cost of living is relatively low and my job is located here.

The quality of life for most of the people.

Friendly People - Great Parks Organization - Entertainment Opportunities - Good Restaurants

southern values, slower development of land to buildings and roads

The people. The home town feel.

Still has "small town" feel. Open space within the city limits. Lots of big city amenities.

THE DOWNTOWN AREA AND THE PARKS AND GREENWAYS

Small town feel

Safe, clean, well cared for neighborhoods. Parks - especially the Greenways trails.

sustainability

A social climate that is family oriented, closely related and business friendly.

The low cost economy.

cost of living

Pragmatic professional government. Great Public Library. University Town.

its not to big,easy to shop,clean, lot of cops,

The smaller size, slower pace and lower cost of a small city and the proximity to major centers and the Ozarks.

Home town feel, friendly atmosphere from most of the people

I am 50+ year resident of Springfield and I value the foresight being used to update infrastructure downtown, parks, greenways etc. Springfield has been and is a great place to raise a family and live.

Springfield has always been a great place to raise a family as compared to St. Louis or Kansas City. Would like to see it remain this way with continued assertive law enforcement.

minimal Gang activity.

The spirit of cooperation and the friendly people.

parks, hiking trails

It is a good place to raise a family.

The very dedicated people who work for the Police and Fire Department.

Home for my family and my friends

I value the big city atmosphere without the traffic problems in KC or STL.

The wonderful night life of downtown, great bars, good movie theater, pleasant to walk around and enjoy fine living.

Feeling of safety, low cost of living, big city amenities with small city feel

The efforts made to retain pluses of a small town, such as space, trees, clean parks, even while growing into a bigger city and the challenges that come with being a part of a bigger city, such as congestion and crime.

Lower cost of living. That is what attracts older people to retire here.

Lifestyle. Small town feel with most of the amenities of a larger city.

A diverse population and economy. And the rich natural beauty of the land.

City government county government,

medical care & ease of shopping at several different stores but I think we have enough!!

It's big enough without being too big.

the parks

Q1 - What do you value most about the Springfield area?

Nature, beauty, It is city like but not. Still has small town feel.

Good municipal services at Busch and Health

Schools of the highest quality. Big variety of activities. Continued concerns and values of city government.

It is a safe place to live and it is very affordable. It offers many urban amenities but we are also within driving distance to lakes, scenic areas, etc. The parks and recreational opportunities are exceptional for a community of this size.

The small city feel but yet it has available almost anything you want as far as entertainment is concerned.

I like the quaint size that, the central location, the seasons, the ease of commute, and the nice combination of commerce, community and cultural arts.

public libraries, terrific parks (not recreation programs), police protection (safety), public input, clean environment, great schools

It's a strong community with city leaders that really seem to care. It's safe, and traffic is tolerable. My favorite event is first friday artwalk, because it draws a wide variety from all over the area.

I value the fact that Springfield has the potential to improve. I have lived several areas, where due to size, politics, etc, the potential to improve seemed lost.

don't know.

Low cost of living.

Downtown and commercial street, our historic sites (old city hall), and the good water and air quality.

Small town attributes in a fairly large city.

Cost of living is relatively low

The broad variety of things to do here and in the surrounding areas

We have developed more attractions for entertainment and brought alot of culture into the area that was not present several years ago. I also value our strong educational and medical appeal.

It's diversified Shopping from A-Z, and it's many Educational Institutions.

The domiance of pudgy white people everywhere...and the multitude of cashew chicked choices that helped make them that way

Quality of life and all that that encompasses.

safe and clean

Good quailty of life.

Location to lakes and proximity to work and other big cities

Quality of life for families and children.

Clean air and water, low cost of living, access to medical, recreational: Lakes and fishing.

Our Christian based lifestyle, seasonal (but not extreme) weather, highly reputable medical facilities, strong educational system, primary, secondary and higher education! diversity of commerce, Springfield Cardinals

Quality of life, diverse interests, restaurants and businesses, support of neighborhoods and residential planning, it's beauty

Maintaining current and proposed green space to include parks and wildlife habitat.

The overall quality of life including schools, close to lakes, and security.

The quality of life.

The historic character and walkability of Center City.

Q1 - What do you value most about the Springfield area?

The size and number of beautiful residential neighborhoods.

The culture and small town feel.

Small town feel. People move away from large cities to here for a reason. We should be careful not to change our town into a sprawling urban blight area.

The generally small-town feel with big-city amenities.

friendly people

Steady growth while continuing to value and maintain green space and suburban land. Progress without losing small-town values.

Small-town, neighborhood feel while still boasting a variety of shopping, dining, etc.

Good community services and safe, quality schools for our children.

It's people, natural resources, hospitals, educational institutions, midwest flavor

friendly people, lower cost of living than other metro areas.

A family community that is safe with stable utilities, housing and jobs. Progressive schools with opportunity to learn in OTC and MSU at an affordable cost. Established Churches, good charities and organization to help the less fortunate. Great location

Safety/Cost of living

Midwestern, conservative values of the community. Economy is consistent, if not spectacular. School systems. Regional recreational opportunities.

Schools and feeling safe in our area.

Clean air and water

excellent public education and low crime rate.

low crime rate, good Biblical values for the most part, great environment and recreation possibilities, lower cost of living.

Quality affordable housing

Low crime. Low cost of living. Great and many churches.

congenial country atmosphere in an urban setting

The lack of crime compared to other areas.

The close layout and the amount of choice I have in purchasing and doing business.

The people, good health care, strong values,

Affordable housing with easy access to shopping, abundant employment opportunities, churches and entertainment.

Agricultural diversification, economic growth

The medical community

The residents are friendly folks, great library system, park system is wonderful and golf courses are good as well.

Access to undisturbed natural areas coupled with the benefits of an urban area.

Small town feeling

cost of living is still ok, for now.

It's friendly people and, formerly, business

diversity in entertainment, shopping, culture, and religion

I like the fact that we have an active "local" business atmosphere. People seem to like dealing with local businesses owned by local entrepreneurs.

The convenient way the city streets are laid out. The beauty of the surrounding landscape. Good roads and connecting highways, our parks, nature trails & center.

The small town atmosphere, with bigger city culture, education and medical care available.

Q1 - What do you value most about the Springfield area?

lots of amenities, yet still has a cohesive smaller town feel; safe and friendly; easy to get around; outdoor areas/amenities

The people, cost of living, and lack of crime.

One. It is my home. Two. after living a few other places I decided it was the best place to live. It has trees, hills, rivers, lakes, nearby, etc.

Beautiful city, low crime, good neighborhoods, cultural activities, affordable new housing

My own home that I worked hard to have.

People's willingness to help one another through difficult times, regardless of the nature of the problem.

The cost of living

Parks, trailways.

The friendly atmosphere and way it can foster creative entrepreneurship.

Not being so busy, traffic, population, coming from a big city-portland Oregon, i love it here.

Good hearted people. Relatively stable and growing economy. Natural beauty of the region. Safe. Mid-sized city with more to offer than small towns, but not all the headaches of big metro areas.

The Parks/Trails are great! The schools are good. We are excited about the new Hickory Hills school. I also enjoy the downtown atmosphere.

Cost of Living

Springfield is a wonderful place to live and do business.

The communities family values and unique history and culture.

employment opportunities, variety of cultural events and shopping options

The arts, Downtown, parks and open spaces - especially natural areas with protected waterways.

small and easy to get around. no big city problems. lots of activities without the skyscrapers blocking views.

Diversity

Quality of life.

I value the friendliness and hardworking nature of the people in this area.

Area natural resources; still has a 'home town' feel with big city entertainment, shopping and health care options; very good quality and variety of secondary education, primary education system is in good shape compared to other cities I've seen.

We have all of the civic and cultural advantages of a larger city without the problems of a larger city...traffic, crime, etc.

Safety and Friendliness

The outside trails and parks.

low cost of living

The "quality of service" attitude of the people.

That it is a safe, low cost, place to live with growing universities, and a thriving downtown area.

Commercial Sreet Historic District and Walnut St district.

People

The small town friendliness.

We have a very strong sense of community

I like that it feels like a somewhat some town. I like the variety of things to do and see, the diverse area in terms of lakes, parks, tourism.

Q1 - What do you value most about the Springfield area?

Strong family ties and a sense of community.

I value the small town feel despite the relatively large size of the population. I appreciate that this is a safe, friendly city, that values arts, entrepreneurship, community involvement, and promotes a healthy lifestyle.

Proximity to family and beautiful natural areas.

~ The slow pace (even though as individuals we move fast).

The outstanding character of the people who make this area their home.

That we strive to be a community for family and that we offer a wide variety of interest for all ages.

Springfield has a sense of community and a spirit of giving that makes this a good place to live.

the lower cost of living (as compared to a bigger city)

the sidewalks

The generally wholesome friendly primarily Christian environment and lovely outdoors, sports, arts offerings.

Location

diversity of tourism, community activities available, and diversity of jobs

I value the art and writing community in the area.

great place to raise kids

friendliness

cost of living

neighbourhoods

biggest small town ever

geographically located and activities in community

safety

parks

low cost of living

more effort in restoring older neighbourhoods

Generally safe environment. Most people care about the community and their neighbors. Good access to higher education.

people

education system/MSU

low crime rate/safety

turn lanes added to intersections

size -- big city amenities, but not too big

Safety and low cost of living above all, but also the growing culture and activities available.

C-Street neighbourhood

small-town atmosphere

major city amenities

Low crime and I appreciate how far we've come in recent years on redevelopment of downtown and promotion of arts and culture.

College town feel

I value the small town feel with the big town choices.

Really, I like how it is laid out as a giant suburb. It's easy to navigate as opposed to a lot of a lot of buildings hovering over you. first thing that reached out to me when I first moved here.

Comfort. It is safe for the family. It has growth potential thus opportunity economically.

Low cost of living

Q1 - What do you value most about the Springfield area?

The city loves to brag about it being the #5 best place to do business and yet it ranks in the national lead for largest collection of failure among young photographers between the ages of 20-30

small town feel with big city amenities (art, music, baseball, great schools)

The natural beauty and natural resource treasures. The selection of things to do.

The small town atmosphere.

The increasing willingness to listen and learn when it comes to the Environmental Education of the Adult Community & City Gov't.

affordable cost of living, local shops, and bike routes - greenways.

The friendliness of the people.

Climate, local government concerns with the environment, location, low crime.

- Friendly people

Wholesome living, great place to raise kids. Good schools, for the most part. Great educational opportunities for adults.

Small town atmosphere.

For a growing area, it still manages to keep some of that small-town feel.

The bigger it gets the less I like it. Sometimes I just want to move to the country where I lived 30 years ago.

big town with small town feel

Great place to raise a family

You can't beat the cost of living...that's about all this city has to offer.

The network of socially conscious Evangelical churches and organizations that work together to address the spiritual and physical needs of Springfield's citizens, particularly its citizens in need.

I value Springfield's amazing art scene. For a city of Springfield's size we have an incredible art scene.

The Mall and stores

Easy to get involved; participation is valued

relatively stable growth – it doesn't explode and then collapse

MOState University

The greenspace. The parks!

The small town feel for a small urban city, close to Branson, regional medical facilities, jobs, public transit, the trails and greenways, and the shopping.

Bike trails and parks, golf courses...cheap recreation.

Proximity to family

An excellent array of doctors in the Cox Health System. They diagnosed a disorder I have had for a long time.

Friendliness of most people.

Positive growth despite hard financial circumstances nationally. Congratulation on luring Expedia to town.

I have lived here my entire natural born life.

Reasonable cost of living; good place to raise family with lower crime, activities, outdoors/Greenspace.

The open areas and lack of dense population that can be found in other areas.

Friendly people lots of shopping

Low cost of living.

Q1 - What do you value most about the Springfield area?

Lower cost of living. Close to recreation areas.

Low crime rate (safety); affordable housing and cost of living; our caring, friendly people;

Still simple living, lower cost and friendly.

The security and safety of living in this area with a low violent crime rate and professional public safety departments.

The friendly atmosphere and honest people. The trees and nearby lakes.

* Access to parks, trails, and outdoor facilities both within the city and within easy travelling distances

Clean, safe, with great educational and medical facilities.

Springfield has a rich heritage, and I think that there is an opportunity to use that to the city's advantage.

I value our community and it's safety. Also, Springfield is in a beautiful area. I enjoy the Ozark Mountains and the scenery around our city.

Our business diversity... healthcare, manufacturing, professional services, education. I think that isolates us somewhat from what the rest of the country is going through.

I value most the diversity of ideas and each citizen's ability to address their position in an open forum - City Council Meetings.

Its location with major road ways. The way the city handles winter weather snow removal and ice treatment.

Overall quality of life: safe, moderate growth, access to quality outdoor activities and programs.

Opportunities to be involved as a citizen.

Diversity in our economy and in our citizenry.

I value most the excellent public school system that the city offers to its patrons although I wish they would increase their PR and tell us how good they really are.

low cost of living, high quality of life

The role of the Parks Dept. in the quality of life.

Living closer to family who migrated to the area in the 1980's.

the way the community reaches out to the poor-jordan valley, the kitchen, crosslines, salvation army and others.

The friendliness, the Springfield Opera, Symphony and all of the theater

small town atmosphere. good to raise children. good colleges

IT'S A CITY WITH MANY CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES, UNIVERSITIES, AND IT'S CLOSE TO GOOD OUTDOOR RECREATION. IT'S A FRIENDLY PLACE.

The size: big enough to have a lot going on, small enough so you can know people from a variety of sectors. Small enough that it's easy to get involved.

the spirit of community and voluntarism

That it isn't Detroit, St. Louis, KC, Wash. DC, or any of those types of cities that do-gooder Libs have ruined then moved to the burbs!!

I like the urban amenities and the nice people

Low cost of living coupled with high availability and quality of convenient services

The people are so welcoming and friendly. It's very safe. Great place to raise a family.

City life within spitting distance of the Ozarks countryside.

City I can finally call home

The opportunities to engage together to build a vibrant community.

Ongoing downtown revitalization; cost of living; environmentally aware; low crime.

Low cost of living

Q1 - What do you value most about the Springfield area?

Nothing is extreme--including weather.

It's smaller than where I come from and easier to get around in because of the north, south, east, west streets.

Economic diversity

Safe, freindly and a great community to raise a family in.

Home

I think that I value that Springfield is a very family friendly place even though it is such a huge city.

I like the way city, county and state agencies work together.

The people

The friendliness of the people. I moved down here, funny Midwestern accent and all, a little more than two decades ago. I never for a second felt unwelcome.

The relatively safe environment, the clean entertainment choices and the wide variety of options for employment.

historic downtown (south street) and commercial street and areas like Rountree, Midtown, etc.

Where I live, My neighborhood and neighbors-- I live close to grocery stores and barber shop. Closeness to the lakes.

recycling and yardwaste collection centers around town

Its low crime rates and its low cost of living

-Low cost of living.

People

Great health care

minimal graffity on walls,billboards,signs, etc.....I feel safe in my neighborhood!

I also value the close and proffesional people who work as Police, Fire, and EMS personel in this city.

City Utilities

Best things about Springfield: Park System, Library System (if I do say so myself) and City Utilities

friendly attitude of governmental agencies.

Accessability to a metropolitan area for work and shopping, but within a reasonable commuting distance from the rural areas.

The Springfield's Brownfields Program

The universities, close proximity to my home, and lots of places to shop!

GREAT Educational Institutions

Culture

Family Values

safety / low crime rate

cultural offerings

the focus on rejuvenating the downtown area

~ Extracurricular activities, including: Jordan Valley Ice Park, JV Park, Art walk, Walnut Street activities.

~ Shopping: Battlefield Mall, 2 Sam's Club's, and outdoor stores

~ Higher education

~ Bringing in higher paying jobs

Q1 - What do you value most about the Springfield area?

work collaboratively
lots of things for kids to do
safe
great school system
good colleges
friendship
caring community -- compassionate about others
big city amenities with small town feel
unique specialty programs in schools
retail shopping
libraries
parks
vibrant non-profits work well with Chamber and government
progressive leadership in surrounding communities
cost of living
medical facilities
well-run utilities
growing community
safe community
church and bank on every corner
safety
atmosphere of downtown
art walk
libraries
greenways
network of people/friends
friendliness
cooperation of partnerships
like Ozarks; beautiful area
lots of things to do outside
cultural opportunities provided by educational institutions
higher education
natural, historic link to most people, family connections
blend of tight-knit community that is welcoming to newcomers
metroplex in city, but lakes and other recreational opportunities nearby
don't have the traffic/crime of larger cities
rural setting
best of both worlds
opportunities to get involved
safe community -- good police force
high environmental quality of life
diversity and acceptance in neighbourhoods
sense of community
friendliness as a whole -- people are approachable and welcoming
historic buildings
places of character that stand out

Q1 - What do you value most about the Springfield area?

heritage and history of community

safe place for raising children; family friendly

pride of community

clean city

parks program

Pythian complex

three best places: Big Momma's, the Moxie, and Gasdo Pub

people are trying to make our place better

good retirement community for health care, cost of living, and transportation

right mix of amenities with city and outdoor recreation

good balance of streets for bicyclists

feels like safe community

downtown is cool

weathered the recession fairly well

great area to ride a bike b/c of terrain and connections

safe

friendly people who look out for one another

medical services

low cost of living

low gas prices

Glenwood Village subdivision

good educational opportunities and schools

sense of community

higher education opportunities

big city with small town feel

public schools

parks and recreation

city size

geographic location in the country -- near big cities, mountains, coasts, centrally located

low property taxes

low utilities compared to other cities

faith-based opportunities

epitomizes middle America

safety

sense of community

quality of life better than other cities

growing at rapid pace

quality in neighbourhoods

good to plan

school system

excellent medical facilities

short commute

employment opportunities

diverse cultural opportunities

always something to do or go to

almost everything you could want -- restaurants, travel, shopping, people

Q1 - What do you value most about the Springfield area?

great small-town feel

cost of living

good community for small business

generous people and not-for-profit philanthropies

close to lakes/big cities

lots of things to do

parks system

trails/greenways

great community spirit -- always willing to help

good school system

issues with maintenance on certain parks (AC- that's a like!?)

I hope, but have some doubts, that the current leadership will continue to seek new companies in all areas, and especially in manufacturing.

low cost of living, easy escape to lakes and rural areas, abundance of local entertainment and recreation, abundance of secondary education opportunities, good primary schools and friendly people.

It has all the features of a large city, i.e., three performing halls, a minor league baseball team, great college sports, a great public parks system, etc.

However, it retains a small town feel in that the people are very friendly and crime is not a serious problem.

the small town feel of Springfield mixed with the creature comforts found in larger cities.

the parks and rec system, especially the greenways.

a wide variety of great restaurants to choose from for a city of it's size.

The area provides a safe and affordable place to live. The area is also has a good mixture of small town/mid size city conveniences and benefits.

I like that it is easily accessible to St. Louis, Kansas City, and Tulsa. There are many outdoor recreational activities. It seems like a nice place for families.

friendliness of people

things to do -- lady bears, MSU HHPA

churches

strong faith base

volunteer groups will get together to study big questions facing city

clean air

medical care

low utilities

library system

police and fire

local government structure

natural beauty

programs -- symphony in parks

parks system

trails

(pro) baseball team

diversified economy

diversity

entertainment and theatres -- gilloiz, little theater, HHPA

Q1 - What do you value most about the Springfield area?

small town flavour

feels safe

good place to raise kids

neighbourhoods are walkable -- phelps grove to MOState

social character in the neighbourhood

biking around town

existing bike trails

neighbourhoods have been protected from disruptive building

preserve the true community feel of neighbourhoods

people

neighbourhoods with porches, gardens, walkers, biker -- leads to personal communication

zoo

police substation

bus service

improved bike lanes

good schools

parks and greenways

friendliness

close to lakes

natural environment

college town energy

great place to raise family with parks and schools

doesn't take too long to get anywhere

work ethic people have/promptness

values

spirit of collaboration/cooperation

OTC

independent mindset of people

advance planning for transportation grid

safety

fiscal responsibility

good job climate

school system

downtown progress -- more businesses, safer

religious/faith-based community/Christian values

response to "gripes" is done quickly and effectively

local voices heard here

one-way streets downtown

phelps grove neighbourhood revival

jordan valley park project

public and private partnership the city makes

service clubs and work they do in city

park board and work they do

clean

friendly

location and proximity to lakes/major cities

Q1 - What do you value most about the Springfield area?

spirit of entrepreneurship
airport is asset
cardinals AA baseball
restaurants -- many locally owned great ones
many good colleges
modern healthcare choices
safe place
civic involvement among business community
traffic greatly improved
kindness and generosity
Jefferson Avenue Footbridge
Greenway trails
interest in community as shown in turnout for annual Chamber meeting
friendliness/service ethic
resilience (ice storm as example)
cleanliness
low crime
reasonable pace of growth
public schools
gentle humility/concern for others
affordability of real estate
amenities -- bass pro, sports, shopping, restaurants
collaboration/congeniality
urban atmosphere
outstanding schools
theater and sports complexes
health care facilities
sense of collaboration, especially between MOState and City
short commutes, compared with bigger cities
professional police and fire staffs
parks
city staff
starting to move forward after pension woes
friendliness
convenience of living 5 minutes outside city to get into town
rural/urban community
two of top public high schools in country
good restaurants
locally owned businesses
good hospital care
social life -- downtown, Square
movie theaters
overall location -- not huge tourist destination, but close to many within a few hours
safe place
urban neighborhoods
access to lakes and conservation areas

Q1 - What do you value most about the Springfield area?

diversified economy

cost of living

access to education and trades training

potential for entrepreneurship

Open spaces and cleanliness

It's a fairly large city but it doesn't seem like it. That is the first thing that reached out to me when I first moved here.

Loop around the city

Parks and trailways

Nearby lakes and rivers

Seeing people you know.

Mobility.

You can get anywhere in town in 20 minutes.

The positive attitudes

Partnerships

Low Cost of Living

Low energy costs

Large number of restaurants and shopping

Low taxes

Downtown

The churches and their influence on the area, especially for the young.

The open mgmnt. style of city officials.

Good colleges.

Dr. Robert Spence's influence in the city and annual Prayer Bkfst. leadership.

- Low cost of living

- Low crime rate

- Universities and colleges that create educated residents and create a population of bright, young students who keep the city refreshed and just a bit more forward-looking

- Great, compact downtown thanks to office jobs, dining, nightlife, yoga studios, boutiques, etc. all in walking distance

- Support of the fine and performing arts

- Good restaurants and lots of them

Great medical facilities.

Nice, midwestern, neighborly people. Affordable housing.

things to do, but can know people from other schools

family-oriented

parks

sports venues - Sgf Cardinals, Ice Bears hockey, JQH

JQH as a concert venue

easy to navigate, drivable

trails

entertainment

proximity to Branson

focus and expansion of performing arts

restaurants all over town

restaurants downtown

Q1 - What do you value most about the Springfield area?

MOState and other colleges

sense of security

news channels

radio - KSMU

artwalk

Education

Parks

Sporting events

Kids sporting events

Restaurants

Relatively safe

Lack of gang activity and organized crime

Community above average in giving

Willingness to address issues in the community

Quality of healthcare

Good infrastructure

Not much traffic

Large community opportunities but small-town feel

Lakes region

Proximity of other major cities and ease to commute to

Character of the people; friendliness and values

Greater outdoors; camping, hunting, etc.

Ability to participate in community

Arts

Higher education institutions w/good faculty

Movie Theaters

Safe Community

Art & Culture

Minor League Baseball

Variety of things to do

Farmland just outside of town

Parks & Greenways

Downtown historical areas

Historic Landmarks

Safe – Low Crime

Friendly people

Personal warmth, people are our greatest asset

Small and cohesive enough to get involved; interests overlap and people can work together to affect change

Community is well-balanced; people are interested in many different aspects of life from arts to poverty to education. Spirit of collaboration.

Great place to raise a family

Fabulous parks system

Higher education landscape; and the diversity found within it

Fewer private schools than many communities; helps add to the cohesion that the public school system provides the community

Q1 - What do you value most about the Springfield area?

Higher ed brings young people to town – many of whom stay here

Library system is very well-developed

Economic diversity paired with steady, slow growth over time. We're in a slump now but not hurting in the way some areas are hurting right now.

Safe place to live by and large

Corporate/private funding for major projects is available here; i.e. the crime lab

Great arts community for spectators and participants

economic diversity is a good thing – health care, education, some manufacturing

strategic location -- should promote

Education – both higher and SPS/private schools; hospital environment, including Jordan Valley Community Health Center.

Location – lakes, nearby recreation; proximity to both coasts and most major metros within a day's drive

good downtown area

shopping opportunities (Battlefield Mall and downtown venues)

downtown restaurants

downtown entertainment

big city, small town feel

proximity from larger locations

3G cell service

efforts that have been made to advance city and functions

police and fire protection

low utility costs

college-student friendly

could effectively survive without the college population

the beauty, cleanliness and proximity of beautiful mountains and water with all the outdoor activities those provide;

Springfield's size -- large enough to have good hospitals and health care and shopping and restaurants and

cultural amenities like theater and music, zoo, but small enough that getting to them is convenient and you can find a place to park;

our wonderful nature conservation center within the city limits; MSU, OTC and Drury;

and yes, Andy's Frozen Custard. Springfield is truly a great place to live and raise a family.

* The increasing arts and events programs within the city

* short travel times to most facilities

* friendliness of the occupants

Springfield has the ability to draw upon its old downtown, it's connection to the Ozarks and the natural resources that surround it.

Our community is very generous. I'm impressed with the amount of giving.

I like our size.

I believe the City continues to operate exceptionally well with such serious financial restraints.

Great leadership and outstanding work force that continues to take care of business in a time of extraordinary challenges.

I think our regional medical area is good for our community.

Q1 - What do you value most about the Springfield area?

I applaud the potential available for all Springfieldians to volunteer in governing the city in many ways.

I love having clean air and clean water in many places.

The friendliness: people are genuinely friendly and warm.

The vibrant arts community.

The fact that there are several institutions of higher education, which bring lots of interesting events, speakers, and so forth.

The Park system--just great! I love the fact that the greenway is expanding, that there are interesting things to do in the parks.

Generosity of residents: when people in Springfield are aware of a problem, they pitch in to help.

Witness what they did in the ice storm and for the Backpack Program, for example.

excellent park system

good schools

ability to get things done

I think we are fortunate to be the regional hub for Southwest Missouri for medical, education, distribution/manufacturing, and most of all for retail.

I enjoy GROWTH and the challenges that come with it.

Cost of Living

Proximity to great fishing

Great City Mgr

I like the number of restaurants we have to choose from.

Farmers markets. Ability to drive 20 minutes out of town to pick my own fruit (blueberries, apples, peaches, etc).

parks are great!!

Great local businesses - The Moxie, Bruno's Resturant, Taylor's Hamburgers, etc.

I've lived here since 1964 and don't plan on going anywhere. It's home.

hamby's resturant (sadly torn down for a parking lot). What a tragedy on so many fronts...

Lawrence film and video - a great local business with excellent product and excellent service

-Low rates of serious crime.

-That Springfield's streets are laid out on a grid- there are many ways to get from Point A to Point B.

The family atmosphere

Good quality of life for people

Schools

Option of schools, private vs. public

Good cost benefit ratio

Lots of things to do within 10 to 60 minutes

Family roots

Economic opportunities

Diverse terrain

Trust city government

Family and friends will come to aid

Good hospitals

Good education systems

Public safety

Q1 - What do you value most about the Springfield area?

Emergency response

Partnership and cooperation, collaboration

Available resources

Community continues to develop parks and trails

Close lake area

Economic viability

Aggressiveness to promote business

Cultural opportunities

Four seasons

Good law enforcement

Can live rural but close to city

Close to other major metropolitan areas

Size of community; small town feel, but has large-town attributes

Higher education

Downtown

Art, music, theater

Lakes and recreation

Great work ethic

Growing community

Ability to feel relatively safe

Nice blend of Midwest work ethic and southern hospitality

Public schools

Services for peoples with disabilities

Safer community than larger cities

Low cost of living

Low utility rates

The family atmosphere

Q2 - What would you most like to change about the Springfield area?

I wish there was a large convention type center like the BOK in Tulsa...

I'd like to remove the "Bar Ban." I'd also like our police force to focus more on real crime and not victimless crimes like underage drinking. Also, while I am not against the red light cameras, the city needs to find a more favorable contract with the service provider in order to make the system worthwhile.

I'd like to see Springfield place more emphasis on issues related to sustainability, and would like to see the availability of "green" jobs increase to address the unemployment situation.

The lack of diversity.

Get some people involved who have some semblance of understanding and experience about how to manage and improve the City.

Too top down and replete with inbred ideologies.

Realize there is a significant crime problem and do something intelligent about solving it.

1-synchronize the lights and publish the speed that the lights are set to. NOT A GUARANTEE, just the speed that will keep us from wasting gas, brakes and time.

2-gladly to give helpful suggestions, biggest problem is old guard has not listened, but helped their cronies in the downtown development by wasting citizen money.

The traffic

What feels like a drive to pave over every blade of grass with a house or strip mall. Possibly the worst roads I've ever driven on. Ridiculous lack of sidewalks.

GRAFFITI, VANDALISM, SLUMLORDS, I ALSO WISH THERE WERE MORE CULTURAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS MUSEUMS

Slow down the expansion / cost of government!

I am concerned that compliance is not being adequately enforced. This, in turn, could lead to an increase in crime (I would refer you to the "broken-windows" theory of law enforcement).

I would like more economic development from within and further encourage the ability for us to be able to feed ourselves.

Increase in jobs available

Undoubtedly, Downtown! Specifically, the Square and the Heer's building. We need more than clubs/bars and restaurants downtown. Developers should be looking at companies to locate downtown to bring more people to the area daily. Furthermore, the look and feel of the area must be updated and modernized? Maybe having an overall plan/vision would benefit developers.

decrease urban sprawl

1. A unique name would be nice. A signature event or icon would also be nice. Louisville has a horse race, Albuquerque does balloons, St. Louis has an arch... Springfield has ??? We should be known for more than Bass Pro. Campbell? A huge bell in the park rung on special occasions? Possibilities are endless... Every tradition has to start somewhere... 2. Walkable city and some walkable neighborhoods - calming traffic and bike/walking paths that go meaningful places...

jobs,work there none in springfield our family is planing to move to fine work as we talk to other who are plan too,

I would like the people of Northwest and downtown Springfield to once again take pride in their city and maintain their homes, businesses and neighborhoods, and be able to expect essential government services in all parts of the city.

Taxes need to be lower we are not a high end wage earner area. At least for most folks. More jobs need to be brought in.

Q2 - What would you most like to change about the Springfield area?

I believe it has been a mistake to only annex areas where sales tax could justify the annexation, because you need to keep bringing in the affluent voter who settles in the suburban rings around Springfield - the weight of the "against everything" voter that seems to dominate older, less affluent areas will soon take over and dominate the political process of the city, rolling back the things that make Springfield a great community. I am worried about the increase in spot zoning which negatively impacts neighbors who have bought with a reliance on current zoning. Promote and boost the economy to bring in higher paying jobs, of my three university educated children one has already moved to Overland Park, KS to double his pay for the same work. Also the city schools used to be premier in the region, and are now being surpassed by Ozark, Nixa, Republic, and Willard. This needs to be reversed.

Would like to see improved road arteries from east to west and north to south connecting downtown with safe walking/biking trails showing off historic sites in Springfield like Elfindale Mansion, etc.

more attractions, more concerts, more activities to draw tourists.

We need to be more tolerant of diversity; change the spirit of the daily newspaper to be supportive rather than inciting conflict/rage and being hateful toward the community; be more open to economic development incentives to attract more jobs and development projects; more focus on sustainability; more of a long-range vision, like this process will produce; Springfield needs a "brand."

attitude of superiority or lack of concern in some areas of city hall.

I would like to see more green friendly options for mass transit. Specifically, I would like to see more bike lanes added.

We have some of the highest rates of child abuse, especially sexual abuse, in the country. I would like to see an all out awareness campaign that would get rid of the stigma and the silence about this generation to generation abuse.

The liberal government

I would like to see a more vibrant downtown & the Heers building completed. Also a place for families to visit and not just the young people & a nightclub for the over 40 crowd like Cartoons on Glenstone & hopefully a Price Cutter downtown. We need a more vibrant downtown. And an expanded Farmers Market on Commercial St similar to the one in KC.

I would love to see increased public transport options, both locally in terms of a better bus route (lets think about a grid system vs a spoke and wheel) and other mass transit options. I would love to have improved downtown living (including C-Street).

A better recycling program and better options for bicyclists

We have some of the nicer folks around but we have a contrast of those folks as well, especially when it comes to drivers. They drive as though their car is the only one on the road and thereby have created a lot of habits not only noticed by locals who cherish the positives of folks but visitors from other parts of the country and much bigger cities who also echo those comments.

Get rid of beat up houses and shacks. Improve the roads with better shoulders. Force landlords to repair their rental houses as some make the area look grubby.

Not much.

The bus system. And let's get rid of the stupid people. ;)

Improved methods for handling auto traffic

More streets going all ways!!

The "anti-everything" mentality. The "we don't want to spend anything." The News-Leader.

More diversity. Less redneck mentality.

Q2 - What would you most like to change about the Springfield area?

cleaning up the park areas and making sure the city has enough police and fire

1) Less crime and drugs in the area. Tired of hearing about our area as the "meth" capital. That needs to change. 2) Sustainability for our city 3) Traffic. Better stop light patterns. Getting from A to B in the city can be ridiculous at times. 4) More attraction signage. How to get around from A to B. (i.e. Bass Pro 1 mile ahead or Discovery Center turn left) This helps our city's tourists locate where to go next and spend more money here. Economic impact. 5) Ice storms and power outages. Can anything be done proactively to keep us from being right back where we were 2 years ago should another storm hit? I was 8 days without power. What has been learned or done to improve on that?

more variety in jobs

Stoplights seem to be extravagant. A strong effort is made to make the city inviting to outside businesses. A stronger effort to get businesses to locate here.

People sometimes seem to cling to the notion of this city as a small town. It isn't. We need to let it become the dynamic growing metro area that it is equipped to become. This will bring jobs and economic/cultural diversity that we need.

More stores such as Trader Joe's, William-Sonoma, Crate & Barrel

Without a doubt the single most important thing that needs to change and will add the best possible chance of improvement is change the term, "Good Ole Boy" to an historical description of the city. What ever steps can be taken to remove this as a perceived, perpetuated or prevailing attitude needs to be taken and the sooner the better. It is misguided to believe there is an economic upside of curtailing competition.

Recreation programs (SPARC, etc.) and much of routine park maintenance should be concessioned out to private vendors. Too many public employees. Parks should remain free while higher fees should be charged for activity areas in demand such as golf, fitness, ice skating that compete with private interests. Sell the ice arena building, even if it means we no longer offer ice skating. There is little/no demand for it. All this with the idea of cutting homeowner and personal property taxes for services most people don't use. I pay to purchase utilities from CU. Thus public transportation routes should extend into the county on the busiest routes. The whole image of public transportation must change to attract more riders. Year-round school! 3 different tracks, 2 groups in school with 1 out at a time, like we had in San Diego. Similar to a trimester system at many universities. This eliminates empty buildings, saves on building new buildings, saves tax dollars. Stop the runaway costs of OTC building by moving having evening & all-night classes in public schools throughout the city-county. Let some of their tuition begin to offset some public school facility & administration costs. If OTC builds a new facility in a bedroom community, let that bedroom community pay for ALL the costs. Eliminate Diversity. Springfieldians need to get out of their comfort zones. I hate to even type this, but too many people in the area think African Americans are solely responsible for crime.

(1) School System: Since I moved here from Chicago 11 years ago, the school system has deteriorated to the point that I would no longer send a child to public school. The teachers aligning themselves with the NEA is the final straw. NEA teachers are in Chicago, Washington DC and in ALL the worst school systems in the nation. The best way to attract educated, successful (tax-paying), committed citizens who will be active in our community is through having the best school system in the area. Once you get them here, you will have all the resources (people and taxes) you need to complete other changes. This is area that I feel is the most important to achieve and also the area the most likely to fail.

Q2 - What would you most like to change about the Springfield area?

Springfield needs to be more attractive to people spending money (and bringing in tax revenue). Springfield has a fair to good selection of shopping in the area, but overall, Springfield looks like a slum. Who wants to go shopping in a slum? At a minimum the main streets, (Sunshine, Glenstone, Battlefield...) should have trees all down them on both sides, along with landscaping at the stores and strip malls, signage needs to be lowered, and don't even get me started on the O/H utility lines. We are fortunate enough (climate-wise) to be able to landscaping without using massive amounts of irrigation systems and the Xeriscape has great ideas. This especially needs to be addressed North of Republic Road (a majority of the city is North of Republic Road). Check out cities like Boulder, CO or Highland Park, IL.

Springfield needs to be more friendly to people willing to improve the city. Springfield needs: (1) people willing to bring businesses to Springfield (providing jobs and tax revenue) and (2) people willing to build middle class and above housing. The administrative processes for these should be streamlined to make it the easiest possible. Permits to rehab/replace old buildings should be given with a plaque, not a bill. Springfield needs to be easy to work with. Unfortunately, that is not the stories I hear about.

hire some personnel who know how to get an adequate level of revenue coming into the city coffers. Some personnel who are not afraid to question the mind-set that says "Spfld is a low-tax town and must always stay that way."

Get rid of the drug dealers.

Raise income levels, add cultural opportunities, improve bike and pedestrian ways. Improve the center city neighborhoods that have been neglected. Improve property maintenance.

When the city looks at expanding/updating to keep long term in mind. An example is US65. It was recently expanded to add 1 lane in each direction. The bridges should have been expanded to allow additional lanes in the future. Cheaper to do it at the time it is being re-worked than to do it a second time. Same thing goes for city projects. Don't just expand to current capacity, but keep some additional future in mind. Also I would like to see Springfield get rid of red-light cameras and concentrate on eliminating traffic bottle-neck areas.

more growth in retail sectors

The issuance of commercial and residential development permits without apparent consideration to traffic flows. Independenc Ave is a good example of inadequate streets to handle the traffic flow

We need more jobs! Several of the big employers have scaled back, shut down or relocated.

We need to entice employers to set up in our community.

It's Waste Treatment Facilities - Dumping into Wilson Creek and into our Rivers

To see that kooky Debbie Rose be able to take her pet monkey into Wal-Marts

More even residential and commercial growth to the North, I like that that has been happening and hope that can continue. Put those who habitually are in trouble with the law to work in some suitable fashion for the city and public benefit since we have such overcrowding in the jails, it seems to be a revolving door for them to be back out on the street

combine city and county gov't, combine and save expenses; improve traffic flow, treat tax payers like customers rather than enemies. do away with traffic cameras. less regulation, less taxes

Make all counties in Springfield MSA full

disclosure on all sales transactions of real estate.

Add green landscaping

Better construction of roads as we grow in population.

Q2 - What would you most like to change about the Springfield area?

The congestion from traffic has become an issue due to a lack of planning; additionally, there is not effort to enhance the city streets once new construction is completed: The white, vertical tubular bars that are used to direct traffic (east Sunshine near 65 access for example) are simply ugly and should not be allowed.

growing crime and poverty sections of population, domestic crime seems to be on the rise and more violent. Also more social opportunities, such as concerts, plays, etc.

Better understanding of our market appeal to incoming residents, planning not just for business growth but residential growth and improvement of the factors that make us attractive to people looking to relocate to our area

More enforcement in the unsightly yard and trash laws to include unlicensed vehicles and household appliances left in view.

Increase in police officers to keep our city safe and low crime.

Lower some restrictions (like fees, restoration processes, and lower commercial taxes) on building for commercial buildings to encourage business growth.

A second mall.

The City is being spread thin by urban sprawl. Growth and money isn't balanced.

Improved traffic flow; better city planning, i.e., not such a hodge-podge; more upscale development bringing in more national stores. We are decades behind the curve. We need city officials and planners who have lived elsewhere and know how to run a city this size.

Construction all the time.

Less regulation, smaller city budgets, lower taxes. Less government involvement in day to day lives.

Improvements in roads and bridges. Outlaw panhandling. Make Springfield less of a comfortable refuge for the homeless population to seek out. KC and St Louis can fill that niche.

Beautification! Beautification! Beautification!

traffic issues

Traffic areas where growth has happened too fast for the streets to keep up (i.e.: Campbell/Republic Rd./James River intersection)

I'd love for people to invest more in the center city area - perhaps the city could offer incentives to encourage growth in town rather than south of town. Another way is to beef up the schools in the area. Because it is perceived that kids get a better education on the south and east sides of town, residents clamor for those properties, and understandably so. Improvements at Parkview have helped, but the elementary and middle schools need help as well.

More higher paying jobs (industry) in the community offering better a standard of living to our members.

Not much, but would prefer a more "can do" attitude from city staff. A better transit system and improved road systems. More neighborhood retail venues. Grow the tax base.

eliminate speed cameras, which do not save lives or lessen accidents, but are just money makers for the city

Traffic congestion, More police officers and investigators to keep drug dealers from our areas and drunk drivers off the streets. Stable downtown area, not sure we are there yet.

Traffic Patterns. We have become a metropolitan area but have a traffic system like small-town USA

inefficient government/utilities

police inefficiency

Q2 - What would you most like to change about the Springfield area?

The City works for the citizens and the city employees are essentially paid by the citizens. Specifically in regards to building, zoning, and real estate the city employees should help it's "customers" find solutions rather than quoting rules and regs and trying to find ways not to get something done!

More, higher paying jobs. Less government.

Bring in a few more upscale shopping areas.

City traffic

Our area needs to expand and grow with more new jobs which pay better and a more vibrant urban core. We have residents who do not know where "downtown" is nor how to get there. The former Heer's bldg needs to be developed or torn down. The city needs to have vision or accept the well-educated vision of others, ie., the square Christmas decor.

The city needs to have guidelines and procedures for encouraging persons to either remodel or tear down properties which have been vacant for years and are eyesores and havens for transients ie., SW corner of the square, as well as the Heer's bldg.

These types of bldgs. keep people from wanting to come downtown.

In addition, former police sobriety stops have hurt downtown business, ie., nice restaurants. Thankfully there seems to be fewer of those than formerly.

Less government

Failure to concentrate on economic growth vs. over regulation

Crime rate. Better traffic flow. Better ethics of city leaders and officials.

Traffic

I would like to see this area support motorsports. NASCAR, NHRA etc. We have enough of the other major sports.

Less regulation and more industrial jobs

Add a realistic public transportation option for locals and regional travelers arriving for medical care.

The lop-sided access to health services and shopping available to the north Springfield area. Why does everything have to be on the south side? Why can't we have a shopping mall on the north side? One mall for the whole Springfield area? That is completely ridiculous for a city of this size! And health care on the north side is a joke.

planning and zoning pompous piety by persons in power

Better planning that would take Smart Growth principles in account. No more urban sprawl.

Better highway system. Roads need improvement.

I would like to see the area's emphasis on growth switch to an emphasis on sustainability. The two are not compatible in a world of limited resources.

Better city government

form of city government / accountability for those in various departments.

A move back to the "business friendly attitude". Quit implimenting and hiring the California liberal, no growth, limited property rights agenda.

the poor attitudes people have of " I got mine , get your own"

We need a new airport director.

The city and county need to work together to build arterial streets where they need to be. They need to be built by city or county ahead of time instesd of being built piecemeal by developers. That way developement will be more controlled as to where and how. master planning at it's best.

Q2 - What would you most like to change about the Springfield area?

I would like to see more progress in our 'old' downtown area, that would bring a 'metropolitan feel' to that area.

Progressive police department that could help control our 'meth' reputation, that is so sad for the whole state of Missouri.

I'd like to banish the horrible, overlit, oversized signage (mostly business) that cheapens the look of the city. Can't we have more restrictive zoning like more wealthy areas?

make it more diverse and more of an open-minded community; better, higher paying jobs; the mentality that we are a small town and not worthy of the funding and recognition KC and STL get; the way news is delivered through the News-Leader, providing more of a voice for reasonable discourse and not just stirring the pot; the ideal that the government is not here to make the area a better place

Improve the roads

I want Spfld to be the new Austin, Boulder, Portland, Seattle, etc. Clean air and water, live music (not Branson music but ...) Plus academia, medical and the arts, etc. Downtown needs an entity that represents the merchants, property owners and tenants of Downtown. That is not UDA's job, or the CID's and the DSA needs to be stronger and more of an emphasis on Retail development, etc. Spfld needs to be the Urban Center of the Ozarks. Nixa, Ozark, etc have big box stores now. (and movie theaters) We need the Gillioz to be real, or get out of the way, the IMAX needs to be at Bass Pro along with the hotel and Heers to happen. Downtown needs artsy, hip retail, etc. Spfld should be embarrassed by their College Station situation and solve the problem. Had those things happened wouldn't our sales tax situation be better.

City Government- Crooked- Politically corrupt-mafia like. Parks Department the same way. Crooks and drug addicts that run our city - shame on us for not ousting them when we had the chance.

I would like Springfield to take more interest in the homeless, not how pricey we can make it look with more and more taxes spent in that area. The poor will always be with us, but they are poor in Spirit in the first. Help them get well, a job, and self esteem. War vets certainly deserve whatever we can do for them. It will make me almost sick if our Council does otherwise.

Lack of respect for other people's property. I have had to deal with obscene graffiti, shrubs stolen out of the ground, vehicles broken into and painted, 6 ft inflated Christmas decorations stolen 10 feet from my door. Added all up, it's rather expensive to live here.

The oppressive, negative growth attitude of city government. I've never seen a group of politicians so determined to destroy the city they are supposed to serve.

Require sidewalks.

More public art.

The anti-growth group that is beginning to become very vocal and pushing into leadership.

i miss a few stores from out of state, ex: costco. and others, it would be nice to have some of those added here. change: expand some roads, chestnut-for example. put lights where needed.

I would prefer a culture that is more socially, politically, educationally and environmentally progressive. I'd like to box up all the gun-toting, government hating, bible banging mysogenists and racists and send them far, far away. Like to the moon - without oxygen.

I wish the north side could be cleaned up a little. I wish areas such as Kearney St. should be a focus for the city for improvement. These areas need some incentive to be cleaned up and more aesthetic. This is the area that many travelers coming through on the Interstate see of our community and this is the lasting impression our city makes on them.

Q2 - What would you most like to change about the Springfield area?

What cost savings is the City taking with alternative energy and fuels like other cities around the country - Las Vegas, Phoenix, California, etc.

Career Center could use some help, funding and new delivery of services model. Why not have them placed in locations around the city?

Hoping the Police/Fire Pension is working itself out finally- we need them.

Lower meth production and rate of child abuse in the area; improve transportation around the city; develop the local economy with higher paying jobs (tech., medical, etc.); improve city budget issues especially in regard to police and fire pensions.

I would like to see the area bordered by Sunshine, Commercial, Glenstone, and Scenic be made more pedestrian and bike friendly. I would like to see more development in the areas near downtown (like West Central) to remove slum lords and create a nice housing mix of small and large homes.

Traffic improvements; School system improvements; continued growth & additional employment opportunities for the community.

More efficient, less wasteful, and a greater focus on using technology to achieve the above items!

traffic congestion in retail areas

I would like for all stormwater drainages to be buffered with native plants and daylighted where possible.

Traffic

better roads

Continued revitalization of downtown.

The mindset that we can't achieve more than we have or have had in the past.

Better roads, infrastructure, doesn't seem planned well. The crime rate has gone up, I would like to see a study done to find out what it would take to support and enhance our law enforcement and first responders. (non-monetary as well)(and improvements acted upon)

I would like to see more bike paths and pedestrian encouragement especially in our center city area.

Add more culture and art to City properties

Smoke-free city

I would really like to see an increase in cultural diversity, exploration and funding of new energy, sustainable building and alternative transportation solutions. The city government as a whole needs to better coordinate with itself and be way more friendly to small and medium sized businesses. There doesn't seem to be a prime directive that guides the entire city government, each office has its own agenda and I seriously doubt that will ever change just because of the nature of people, organizational behavior and our culture as a whole.

I'd like to see more of a focus on public transportation - changing the buses to a grid system would be a huge improvement. Also, the hours for the bus system need to be reconsidered. A friend of mine works near Drury and lives near Sunshine & 65. She gets off work at 5:30 pm and couldn't ride the bus home because the loop that she needed didn't run that late! If we could get public transportation in the city to be more usable, then the next step would be commuter trains from the larger outlying communities (Republic, Nixa & Ozark). I'd also like to see further development of the Greenways within the city to open up alternative forms of transportation to the residents. For example, I live near MSU and work near Chestnut and Kansas. I could easily ride my bike to work but I would have to ride part of the way on Kansas Expwy - SCARY!

Q2 - What would you most like to change about the Springfield area?

I'd like to change the zoning rules that prohibit residents of the city from having chickens and other small livestock. There is definitely an interest in our community in local food and urban farming and what better way to recognize that than to allow residents to grow more of their own food?

Lastly, I'd like to see some restrictions put into place to curb sprawl. The Springfield cityscape is generally very flat with LOTS of single level parking lots which is such an inefficient use of our land, not to mention the impact to water quality that comes from urban runoff.

More focus on crime prevention.

Keeping illegal immigrants out of the city.

Improve neighborhoods in the city, so you don't have to move outside city limits to have neighbors who take care of their property. Make landlords do exterior upkeep.

Get a COP back on Commercail St. Make slum lords on Commercial St and north side take care of their property or sell it. Make social services pay taxes.

crime

To continue the renovations of C stree and downtown areas. I've only lived here since 2001 and the changes I've seen thus far are positive but there is still a lot of areas to clean up and turn around into useful, productive facilities.

I would like to see unhealthy fast food chains discouraged from opening in our city, and businesses that promote healthy lifestyles encouraged

I don't think it is very diversified in terms of people. We have a lot of foreign students, but it seems that we have not grown as much with blacks since we moved here in 1985, when they were not much seen.

I would like to see more neighborhood awareness and connecting.

Lots of improvements have been made, but we could promote more health. More trails, bike routes. And education to the public so the drivers are not annoyed by bikers. And more green space.

I would like to see more urban renewal. There are too many run down and boarded up building in town, which gives the impression that Springfield is not as nice of a city as it actually is. I recently returned to the area after living in Nashville, TN for several years, which has a heavy focus on urban renewal. In the past 15 years, they have spurred their economy, increased their property values, and continue to attract people relocating from all over the country. A large part of their success has been accomplished through neighborhood groups taking initiative rather than putting all responsibility on the city. The Phelps Grove neighborhood is an example of how this can be done in Springfield.

I would also like to see improved traffic conditions in Springfield. There is no fast way to get around in the city besides the outer perimeters, and that even excludes the west end of town. It would be great to see the highways and expressways streamlined or, better yet, have more efficient and available alternate transportation options.

Finally, the Springfield school system needs to offer busing within a more reasonable radius of the schools. If that cannot be done, it would be great to see more sidewalks, and pedestrian underpasses and bridges added to the complete walking radius of each school, and also to have support networks to keep an eye on the children who are walking to school. For example, when I have a child, they will be expected to walk 1.3 miles - on some streets that don't have sidewalks- and cross the very busy Republic Rd. to get school. No 5-year old can be expected to do this, so I will obviously have to arrange their transportation despite paying taxes that support the busing system.

Q2 - What would you most like to change about the Springfield area?

The negative, ultra-conservative mindset that does not truly value education and seeks to block every progressive step forward.

~ Downtown (I know changes are in the works, but that has been said for YEARS)

~ Traffic flow on Campbell from Nixa

~ Perception that we are a bunch of hillbillies

~ City's willingness to work with incoming businesses. (I heard that should be changing soon b/c of staff turnover)

Change the economic recruiting emphasis from manufacturing jobs to high technology careers.

Maybe traffic in places. Like the mall area. We could use another mall type of businesses elsewhere. Also that places like the YMCA would be able to grow with family needs coming.

I'd like to see more diversity in our community.

more lanes on the highways that run around the city

The fact that it is the Meth Capitol of the US. It is apparent that what is currently being done is not working. Management needs to look at alternatives.

For Management to listen to the Citizens, not just hear us.

the lack of bus service

traffic control issues - many logjams during peak times. Numerous issues I have heard about from businesses and individuals regarding building permits and rezoning which impede growth and progress. Get this pension fund monkey off of our back so we can LOOK FORWARD rather than pointing fingers at the past. Let go of the whole Park Central Square/Heers building stuff - it is not going to happen. MOVE ON and focus on improving other areas of Springfield and give downtown a rest for awhile. Very few people live there and it is not because of lack of housing. Focus on neighborhood improvements/parks and public safety etc.

There is a definite lack of arts/culture in the area. Additionally, many of the suburbs feel as if they sprang up overnight and seem to lack a sense of history and community. I would also like to see the area itself become more diverse and open to more diversity.

Improve all highway corridors 44,65,13,and 60 to three lanes through and coming and going for 15 miles N, S, E and W.

planning that does not cater to just one group or individual, and strives to maintain the values above.

I would like to see more jobs for Springfield's citizens and access to additional training and services for those who are homeless.

reduce poverty

economic development

improve traffic congestion

signal lights not coordinated

need more arterials

sidewalks and swerves in all residential areas

eliminate child abuse

more underground utilities

more cultural diversity

low wages

better access to public transportation

mass transit

subway

less parking to force mass transit

Q2 - What would you most like to change about the Springfield area?

jobs

gardens

city-wide WiFi

public entities working together

bus system to integrate between city, CU, schools for efficiency

competitive airfare

progressive industry -- green and technology

safer bike routes on streets with signs

homelessness issues resolved

aggressive approach to remove drug problem

address obesity

farmer's markets and whole foods

law against cell phone usage while driving for everyone.

usable bus system -- current one too complex.

more urban gardens

fewer pesticides being used in city parks

have greenways connect to more places

more bike/pedestrian-friendly

road safety in winter months

city support of Victory Mission's help to homeless on C-Street

fast track downtown development -- local businesses

do all shopping downtown

city's financial involvement with downtown -- balancing act with other needs

how environmental problems are solved

good choices between development and environmental choices

local governments be more proactive as far as green building issues -- setting examples for remodeling buildings, purchasing vehicles, etc.

community has a wait-and-see attitude -- don't want to be innovative

poor voter turnout

see community step up and support non-profits

be more proactive on climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and be serious about transportation

negative people; civic engagement

need more businesses -- how to keep them open

stop importing poverty into community

transients coming in from other areas and partaking in social services

crime from transients

change perception that we provide social services to transients

make it easier to open/start businesses -- streamline BDS and permitting process

end north/south division perception -- culturally and economically

encourage people to invest more money in the north side of SGF

encourage larger corporations to bring in higher-paying jobs

encourage small businesses

better transit system

encourage people to live closer to where they work

encourage more walking on sidewalks

Q2 - What would you most like to change about the Springfield area?

more local spending
brain drain -- have jobs for people who are trained for jobs and keep business growth
trolley to BassPro, then downtown and uptown
good quality housing closer to work
make urban lifestyle more appealing so people want to move to town and everything one would need would be within walking/biking distance
mindset of residents regarding transportation choices
more bike racks
improve Square
focus on "complete streets"
throwing large barriers up to alternative transportation -- dual left lanes and 6-lane highways
put more resources into quality of life
more trails so people change how they spend recreation time
universities get more students on bikes
reserve rail system using infrastructure already in place
use Madison, WI model to change way people get around
development of Jordan Valley Park to move faster
rail service to StL and KC
can't get to Branson on a bus
education police to back up cyclists' rights to drivers
police issues
better roads -- more crossroads to handle traffic volume
traffic help at Primrose and S. National
E. Bennett off Glenstone is rough
safe pedestrian sidewalks for kids walking to school
more school crossing guards
truck traffic on Pythian and Cedarbrook
fix hole by Pythian and Lone Pine near retention wall
synchronized traffic signals
better roads and access -- highways and interstates, streets in town
need an annexation plan
better press/media
more open to diversity and newcomers
become more progressive and aggressive in economic development
need open attitude from citizenry on growth
higher wages, low wages, and no growth is stifling
low wage mentality keeps us from attracting big business and industry
low wages create working poor -- conducive to social problems
bad rap on drugs, meth
need for urban-unified city/council government
more emphasis on sustainability -- recycling and utilities
better acceptance of change
within 20 year plan, 5 years of being aggressive, take things 5 years at a time
quality jobs with livable wages -- define quality jobs
Square is embarrassing b/c of deteriorating buildings and delinquents
need young professional networks to promote ideas and encourage them to stay in SGF

Q2 - What would you most like to change about the Springfield area?

attract 25-34 year olds with entrepreneurial spirit with their visions and new urbanism ideas

traffic

appearance of Glenstone Ave

sidewalks and streetlights in older neighbourhoods

pedestrian-friendly neighbourhoods

air fares

other public transportation -- Amtrak, light rail, mass transit

larger department stores

more environmentally friendly

improve parking at Greene County Courthouse

beautify Square

choice of grocery stores

no street grids

need downtown grocery store

change dumping ground for Springfield social problems (north side)

school size

get out of name "lowest cost living town in US" -- if we want good things, we have to pay for them

too much child abuse/violence

teenage pregnancies

get out from under pension problem

bring salaries up to par with County and CU

improve traffic flow

improve health benefits and retirement package

better marketing of the programs available to local people

improve air/water quality

reduce homeless/unemployment rates

change the fact that social services seem to be attracting homeless from other parts of the country

plan for mass transit

better transportation for seniors

turn recycling into a way of life (Columbia for example)

lowe cost of doing business -- license fees

fix flooding

merit steps reinstated

more jobs

more traffic enforcement

vote no matter where you live (AC- you can't do that without changing US law.)

change public perspective and perception of what public works does

change health insurance from self to regular. no third party administrator

With a flat terrain and a grid street pattern, we ought to encourage more active transportation -- walking and bicycling. We are approaching a time of limited resources. I think the city has a moral obligation to ensure than we will be able to safely move around town by means other than private automobiles.

Q2 - What would you most like to change about the Springfield area?

Further, Springfield needs to be more diverse -- socially, culturally, economically, and politically. It is a largely poor, conservative, white community. This is not conducive to economic growth and long-term sustainability.

traffic

road conditions

trash pickup

signs to new airport terminal

lower airfares

passenger train service

bus system on grid

bus/trolley system to special events

buses need to be safer for elderly -- currently no place to hang on, unfomfortable, scary, sometimes dirty, should have transfers whenever

better care for homeless

more celebration of local diversity -- city wide multi-cultural festival?

better traffic control

more police after special events

annual city-wide cleanup

underground utilities installed -- along alleyways

change bus routes/easier mass transit

more education and valuation of historic places and preservation thereof

hold landlords accountable for properties -- crack down on codes that allow for this (Health Department)

crack down on side and front yard parking

less traffic on National and Dollinson, etc, which feed into MOState parking

flooding and stormwater

16 Phelps Grove homes without access to sanitary sewers

invest in existing infrastructure to facilitate street growth, walkability, and sustailability

"green belt" ordinance created by city/Greene County to cut sprawl

new curbs

improve communication between neighbourhoods and MOState/City -- want to know about changes and discuss before rather than "elbow its way" into conversation

use neighbourhoods as a resource

reduce water, gas, electricity waste

increase recycling/sustainability

affordable recycling

glass recycling pickup

city council meetings on an easier to find channel

CU move to green/sustainable energy production

stop charging for use of Fire Community Rooms

more diversity

more good paying jobs

expand city limits to include more people who have a stake in the community

further look at consolidation

better higher education opportunities/graduate degrees

better coordinated effort on developing future leaders and leadership

Q2 - What would you most like to change about the Springfield area?

more targeted effort at economic development including sports tournaments/youth events
change "cheap" attitude -- you get what you pay for
more street connections
different form of government -- strong-Mayor preferred
alcohol sales at city and park facilities
get Heer's building open
city should stop changing/tracking items sold as a service agent
train crossing at Chestnut and Division at 8a
put pressure on railroads to upgrade crossings
facilities for conventions lacking
no connection between Expo Center and hotel
conversation and planning concerning economic development should include CVB representation at outset
more progressive attitude to allow things like street festivals with alcohol
alcohol sales at facilities such as fairgrounds, Lasers, softball, public golf courses, etc
engage the silent majority in town
CVB involvement could have helped prevent some issues from playing out in the media such as Heers and lot on StLouis St.
consider additional annexation outside city limits
I would like to see more improvement to the center city district including more retail stores. I would also like for the city to help support the local economy by contracting and purchasing through locally owned businesses rather than outsourcing. If we s
negative, cynical voices
reputations for meth, acceptance of poverty, child abuse
behind in sustainability - not just the environment
somewhat parochial/afraid of change
don't appreciate success of others - suspicious of people who are successful/make "too much"
broaden definition of "diversity"
stop continuing to import poverty/find ways to keep our kids from moving out of the area
more roads built for bike paths
take aesthetics into account when building roadways
better technology infrastructures
behind other communities in meeting and convention infrastructures
need more managerial moments of truth -- moving quickly to change negativity
promote living within city limits
county government antiquated -- want Home Rule
neighbourhood safety better
landlord accountability
public transportation -- look at grid system
ethnic diversity - need more
more citizen involvement
change in attitude about what we can afford v. expectations to create a better balance
more jobs
too many poor in Sgf
homeless using city services, living in older neighbourhoods
focus on parks -- leaving pools open longer

Q2 - What would you most like to change about the Springfield area?

look at "playworkers" system some cities have for parks

more places for teens to go

accountability for teens

better quality and more regulation of maintenance in rental properties

revisit ordinances - Sgf if an overgrown small town and hasn't kept up

more animal advocacy

maintain greenspace for parks, especially downtown

change complain-based system for enforcement to more proactive

maintain existing murals

encourage more public art

have "enjoyable density"

schools don't support all programs equally

cost of activities for teens should be lowered -- ice skating

put recycling next to public trash bins

some sidewalks are getting rough

become more "green" as a community

more bike lanes

look at home money for schools is being used -- one school replaced clocks rather than funding teacher supplies or books

more karaoke nights

let teens have a more direct way to have a say in Springfield

be able to stay here for first jobs

I would like to see planning and development codes that require sustainable land use and development practices including a comprehensive strategy to minimize urban sprawl. The proposed east-west arterial is an example of a road that would encourage more s

greater awareness of sustainability issues

better connection to the rural / agricultural

more relevant housing / neighborhood options >> introducing co-housing concepts

radical public transportation improvements

light rail / bus network interfaced into a greater regional network

local public transit connection to a national passenger rail system

Discard and recreate trades licensing because the electrical trade does not serve the homeowners that are qualified to provide their own work. Columbia and St Louis allow the homeowner to permit (counter test if necessary) to do this work. We were complet

Amount of unoccupied buildings (strip malls)

It is too hard to get a job. I am a college student working on my first degree. I've found that even the worst entry-level jobs are always full and even the moderate entry-level jobs have openings but are impossible to get into without a degree. It's very easy to fall into poverty if you don't have someone around to just hand you a job, and most people don't. I would like to see more job openings. I would also like to see a better police force, one that focuses on actual problems instead of meeting quotas by harassing innocent people.

To embrace progress and diversity. There is too much adherence and focus on the past when we should be looking to the future.

Update the public pools so they are more like the ones in Nixa and Republic.

Q2 - What would you most like to change about the Springfield area?

It's lack of love of Young Photographers in this area that is the MAIN Reason why so many of us "Young Kids" as you call us are moving out of the Ozarks an launching our careers in cities on the east an west coast.

revitalize the Square area

I believe crime is increasing, especially on the north side of town (I've lived here 14 years). Special priority should be given to law enforcement pay, benefits, equipment, and numbers. Stricter code/code enforcement.

The negative attitudes cropping up that other places are better because of one thing or another.

We need street trees.

I want the tulips back in the street intersections.

We need more architecturally appealing public spaces. (i.e. better designed streetscapes)

No more metal buildings (i.e. architectural standards for commercial construction)

The Heers Building (i.e. tear it down)

Homeless and Poverty

The Springfield Public School system lagging behind suburban school systems. Teaching catered to MAP testing.

The City to be self-sufficient in terms of funding itself. This would mean less reliance on debt and sales tax revenue.

Stricter development regulations in terms of impact fees, public improvements, design standards, intersection spacing. Less catering to developers and more standing up for community.

I do not support six lanes roads.

Stricter access management.

Increase awareness of forth coming water issues and shortages; &, that we live on a caves, karsts, loosing stream, sinkhole plateau of which nature controls, not mankind.

increased diversity and cultural learning/values

Central screening point for people who are poor, homeless or transient to gain access to assistance and reduce their requests made to various churches and resources at the same time.

1. Better maintained roads.

2. Don't put a stop light on every corner to correct traffic problems.

3. A lot of people do not have cable TV, broadcast or internet stream your info.

4. Broadcast more info of what our tax dollars are paying for. How often have you thought about just what was needed to get the water to your house OR what happens after you FLUSH your toilet? The people don't know because YOU have not told them. I don't mean at a city council meeting or in a news paper article that no one takes. I mean in your face, day after day network TV. Tell us about how the finance department has X number of employees to make sure our tax dollars are spent right. How mean people equipment and time to maintain parks, roads, sewers, treatment plants, AND WHY.

- People living in outskirt towns coming here to work but not living in city

- Bad journalism from all local outlets (some individuals are doing great work but overall much paper/television reporting has become sloppy and infuriating in the past few years)

- Continued sprawl of business/housing to south when so many midtown and north neighborhoods need businesses and good neighbors

- Lack of truly useful public transportation

- Low tolerance for religions outside of Christian mainstream

Q2 - What would you most like to change about the Springfield area?

- Keep more 20/30-something college-educated people here instead of having them go away to major metro areas (better-paying jobs for ambitious types)

(1) curbside recycling, (2) more shopping development on the north side, maybe near 44/65 interchange. Another mall? Another Target or Kohl's store? (3) comprehensively address issues of poverty, abuse and domestic violence (4) more intentional city beautification on the north side

Government intrusion.

1. for it to become a fair and more pet-centric community (spay/neuter programs for ALL, not just those who "qualify" & more places and activities for owners to enjoy with their pets - extend that ridiculous pit bull law to all pets, not just one breed, and actually use the money for something useful that supports such a law - like a spay/neuter program and educational & training classes for owners and or about their pets).

2. to build an increased level of awareness on energy conservation. This encompasses many things like turning off half the street lamps (seriously, the light pollution is horrific here and it's completely unnecessary - studies have been done), building actual bike lanes throughout the city and surrounding areas (not just scenic green trails that serve little practical purpose), a more open and inquisitive mind from community representatives when encountering or presented with such ideas.

I would like to see pot holes fixed. I would also like to see people on the North side helped to fix the property. Otherwise Springfield is in good shape. More commerce is crowing people out of their neighborhoods. (Bass Pro and South Campbell) Hotels? We have plenty.

clean-up the city. curb appeal and litter make it look trashy

traffic light timing, especially along Battlefield

traffic congestion

more winter recreational opportunities -- indoor soccer and basketball locations with affordable rates for students with a student ID (like Nixa RecCenter)

teen-friendly downtown -- later shopping hours, more artwalks, better lighting (like Branson Landing)

promote diversity

higher commuter responsibility -- payroll tax on those living outside city limits

abolish north-south division/rivalry

better public transit -- light rail, rent a bike, etc.

Two-way streets downtown

Difficult to fly into and out of Springfield; connecting flights

Poverty issues

Unacceptable level of domestic abuse; spousal and child

Media to research and find the truth

Meth/drug issues

Negative disconnected groups

Strong distrust of authority

Annex as much as possible

Rejuvenate older neighborhoods

Smoking ordinance

Bike signage and paths

Jobs for everyone

Create an easier/convenient method of transportation to parkways and center city

Q2 - What would you most like to change about the Springfield area?

Opportunity for career advancement

Diversity

EVERYTHING. Infrastructure...the population is outgrowing the current system. And how about instead of building yet ANOTHER Walgreens or CVS on every corner, let's get a Whole Foods Market or something else of actual value? Springfield currently offers nothing of real value for someone like myself, from a larger city (St. Louis), besides low cost of living. Oh, and can we tear down Battlefield Mall and just rebuild? What a piece of "you-know-what"! Everything about this city is dated and leaves much to be desired. I could go on for days.

The town has a fundamentalist mindset--the majority culture is not interested in learning generally or understanding foreign influence--whether that be unfamiliar political, religious, or ethnic influence. Even most people who are not "fundamentalist Christians," particularly people younger than 25 share this mindset while maintaining their secular worldview. People are unreasonably suspicious of "the other side" and unnecessarily defensive about anything important--politics, religion, and the like.

The WASP-y elitist leadership of the Midtown Neighborhood Association.

There are two things that I would REALLY like to see change about the Springfield area. First off the traffic is pretty bad. For a city of Springfield's size our traffic is horrible at best. The fact that we don't have one REAL Expressway through the middle of town is pretty bad. I would also like to see Springfield utilize the resources of our many universities. With Drury University having an amazing architecture program, why don't we utilize it and ask them for more help on city funded projects. For instance Jordan Valley Park!

Light rail system

Move away from coal to renewable resources

Wind & Solar Panels

Better retail, restaurants, and stores

Leader in clean environment

More jobs & businesses

Gangs and vandalism – More Police needed

Fix up downtown – Get rid of graffiti

Help out poor and underprivileged

Fix up downtown – Spruce them up

More police protection on gangs

More mass transportation – Light Rail for Kids

Kid oriented – community involvement programs. To keep kids out of trouble.

More homeless shelters

More resources for homeless

Stop urban sprawl of farmland. Build up not out.

More venues for middle school aged kids. Have programs with other middle schools.

Add color to Springfield – Use other types of design.

Lower prices

More nursing homes for elderly

More parks and up-keep on north side of town

More community centers for kids

Build parks next to schools

Bigger library on north side, like the size of the Library Center

Make libraries safer for kids to go to

Q2 - What would you most like to change about the Springfield area?

Rate of child abuse

Need to look once again at attracting manufacturing/high tech industries here

Raise the wage base

Attitudes about homosexuals and minorities

Anti-government attitudes

More programs for young children under about age 5

Elected representatives in Jeff City need to become more active in the local community

Even more emphasis on civility and manners as we move forward

Improved public transportation

Change the knee-jerk "no tax" attitude

Reduce the meth problem

industrial development component - Springfield needs to be more competitive with surrounding towns

look at bigger picture

make regulatory environment as painless as possible -- already have the people in place; we just need to improve the process -- should be better, slicker, faster

Consumer buying patterns have changed dramatically; we need to streamline the process

Need to communicate better the role of the private sector and public/private partnerships

feels like you're on your own here; we don't have feeling that we all want to make this work

need a land inventory to offer to developers

Things just don't move fast enough

bicyclists -- education on how to share the road. they can't gripe if they don't follow rules.

south end of Kansas Expy is desolate

shopping opportunities -- need more high-end stores so I'll stay here to shop: Nordstrom, Apple, etc.

bickering between city government departments

meth use and child abuse rates

traffic congestion at rush hour times is obnoxious

The huge power poles and electric lines that distract, detract and are health hazards to all people around them. I would like to see all of this underground. How can these items beautify any city. It had been my understanding that all of this was to go under rather than on the ground when they were installed. It appears that I had been misinformed. This is so ugly and unhealthy from all that I read about this above ground installation. Just doing this much in the next ten years would be a plus for beautification, etc. Thanks.

There are a lot of unoccupied buildings in MAJOR disrepair. Rent them or sell them, but clean them up.

I would like to have better highway system through and around Springfield to the adjoining communities. I would like to have better and expanded public transportation with a Regional Transit Authority operating the public transit system in and around Springfield. Continued expansion of the greenways and trails in and around Springfield would be great.

A good mass transit system that has a trolley loop around town. Bike paths and sidewalks on many more streets.

Access to healthier lifestyles - more sidewalks, corner stores.

I would like to see Springfield participate more in recycling of cans, paper, glass, etc. It is shameful for a town this size to not have a recycling program!

The News-Leader editor.

Q2 - What would you most like to change about the Springfield area?

More industrial and construction work. A reason for all to be proud of the community they live and hopefully work in. Of course tax revenues increase when people are working providing for themselves and being able to purchase to better their lives.

bury power plant smokestack for clean air

Over-inflated intelligence that migrates here and then promotes progress and change that leaves us immanently indebted to the corruption and destitution of a demoralized society.

Traffic congestion; do even more to protect our environment.

That is be more liberal with property owners and allow them to more easily raise their own food and animals, and be able to sell those things to their neighbors without a fee required. Less going to Washington to get money to fund projects, and making sure to make cuts rather than raise taxes.

Lower Taxes

More culture; more "real" business and jobs vs the small time mom n' pop or fly by night Center City club jobs.

Building regs are a joke. They don't apply to everyone. Needs change.

Sidewalks. I can't even walk to the nearby stores without taking my life in my hands. I've never seen any real city that didn't have walkways on overpasses at least. And, no, I don't walk b/c I am "poor" I do it for health.

Money wasted by taxpayers to promote areas of development that don't support themselves. Let the free market determine sustainability.

Better public school education. Improve roads and infrastructure. We must make changes to keep tax-paying people and those with school-age children here instead of Ozark, Nixa, etc. If we become a commuter city we lose our tax base and things will go downhill. Also we need to improve our shopping to the next level. We have always drawn from the surrounding areas people who come here to shop and go to medical specialists. Now a lot of these other communities have specialists and their shopping is creeping up on us (Branson now has Home Depot, Target, and good medical). We still have the mall, but we need something more like the new area at 60-65 to bring in retail that is more upscale and not in the surrounding area. Branson Landing had a shot at it but blew it because mostly they have the same stores we have in Springfield. We need to be the best in the area if we want to draw people here and make the trip worth it to them. The new stores will improve our tax base and boost employment.

Local politics, need to focus on managing the area for people that are here now, think about getting people working locally, housing, shopping. Stop beating us up on this firemen/police pension stuff ... get it resolved!! right you can't use the ATT award or whatever. Rebuild the square in 2030 only if you have the funds. Reduce your expenses NOW not in 2030

I would change the focus on growth and focus more on maintaining the quality of the services the citizens need ie.-street maintenance, professional police/fire departs, etc.

The arrogant bureaucrats in City Government especially in Building Development and Planning and Zoning. The overpaid management of City Utilities.

* inward investment and development of the city center

* slow down of urban sprawl and out of town retail development

* Further investment in education

Q2 - What would you most like to change about the Springfield area?

Have the Chamber become VERY aggressive to get businesses here. They are of the "good old boy" mentality with low wages. Do SOMETHING!! We have an airport, freight lines, and are on I-44 and yet have so few national companies who would attract educated people (software, etc.) Graduates have to move elsewhere to get a decent and good-paying job. Business owners live in fancy homes and pay their people who have an education pittance. Pitiful!!

Diversity. Springfield is a city that remains homogeneous in many aspects. Religiously, culturally, ethnically... Springfield is highly evangelical, white and older. The city would become a much more attractive place if it could hold on to more of its university and college students and create an atmosphere where diversity is embraced.

It concerns me that certain areas of crime are so high in this area. (Not necessarily Spfd itself, but the area in general) I think drugs are too accessible. Tired of reading reports about "Meth" and our area. That being said, Springfield is the largest main city here in the area and should lead the charge in opposition of this.

Change the editors at the News-Leader. The Springfield Source is a nice new option.

The lack of non-bias news reporting and how that biased reporting effects the attitudes/decisions made within our City.

Enforcement and practice by the law enforcement officers of correct driving. When you make a left turn, by Missouri law, you are to turn into the left lane, then signal to move in to the right if you need to, and the same (right to right) in a right turn. If this was enforced it would speed up traffic flow, by allowing drivers to make a right turn entering the road way while others are making a left. The majority of drivers DO NOT do this. DRIVERS ENTERING the limited access road ways are to YIELD TO on coming traffic, ON COMING TRAFFIC DOES NOT HAVE TO YIELD TO THEM. When making a turn drivers are not to "cut the corner". Because most drivers do this left turn lanes have been moved back and mid street islands cut back, but you can still see damage to these islands from the drivers incorrect turns. This was very apparent in the alarm of many drivers when dual turn lanes were installed and they couldn't cut the corner and swing wide into the right lane, if you pay attention to the dotted line you are making a correct turn. Enforce drivers with handicap parking cards to do as is printed on the card and "remove while driving" as it impairs their vision. Basically it is just enforcing the driving rules set up by the state of Missouri. Extend Kansas Ave, to the south.

Decrease in airline travel expense.

True diversity, inclusiveness and acceptance not lip-service (see below) and simple religiosity.

Inclusiveness: We were recently alerted by the City and the Chamber of the website Springfieldsource.org through email and by a City representative. We was excited - great idea similar to what the city of Mankato MN and region did several years ago. Until we realized that this is a closed group (appearing to be sponsored by the City and the Chamber; of which we are a member). When we called about membership or participation (willing to pay for the opportunity to be "included") we were told the organization is not open. Clearly a double message - probably unintended but nonetheless. The problem with the idea, site, recognition and support by the city and Chamber is that you exclude many other.

Improving public transportation and adding passenger rail.

I would like to decrease child abuse in the city and the surrounding areas - It's a "red flag" so let's DO SOMETHING! I'd like to diminish greatly the pervasive and unhappy whining and complaining that one sees and hears in newspapers and talk radio. Yes, we do have important problems to solve and we can do it a positive and specific way.

enhance our visitor opportunities, more parks and facilities to attract visitors to the area.

Q2 - What would you most like to change about the Springfield area?

I would like to see us catch up with surrounding communities in sports facilities; enabling Springfield to compete for tournaments etc.. This would stop the outflow of tourist dollars and increase out tourist dollars. We are falling way behind in this area.

Governmental responsibility and accountability to its residents. Listen to the common sense of its citizens. Be prepared to follow the will of people, not personal and political agendas. Offer clear statements and stop assuming the public will continually fall for hokem-pokem tactics for obtaining monetary needed support. Case in point: Allowing the car crushing plant to move into a commercial area adjacent to a residential one, holding to the ground that the city could not discriminate since the company COULD legally be placed there and did not ask for a public hearing. Since company would not comply with County restrictions the City gladly took them in, I believe for the potential tax monies it would then collect. The City's concern was clearly not to watch the backs of its residents who have seen damage to their properties because of the company's noise levels. I live exactly 1 mile from the plant and my house shakes periodically because of the mini explosions when the crusher is activated. I call 911, and ask others to do the same, in the hopes that reports will finally be addressed. To add to the disregard to nearby residents the City has also exposed the city to a perceived reputation, in that, the unsightly view of mountains of scrap cars motorists have traveling on Kansas. Discrimination against minorities in housing, employment, and the pattern of injustice by law enforcement and the justice system.

Get rid of Heers NOW...incredible the debate is still raging. POOR LEADERSHIP.

roads. city council has too much decision making powers.

i live in Glenwood village. fix the flooding problems before i have to request city of springfield to buy another house from me. this is a MAJOR PROBLEM IN GLENWOOD VILLAGE!!!!!!!!!!!!

DIRTY NEIGHBORHOODS. "INFORCE" RULES FOR PEOPLE TO CLEAN UP THEIR YARDS/ OWNERS OF SLUM HOUSES/ FIX UP OR TEAR DOWN.

I'D LIKE IT TO HAVE A HEALTHIER, MORE DIVERSE ECONOMY, WITH FULL EMPLOYMENT.

The provincialism of some long-time residents.

The automatic "anti tax, anti government" mentality of many residents.

The dysfunctionality of the newspaper. It is both inaccurate and nasty--just looks for things to be angry about; tries to stir up controversy, even if it has to manufacture a controversy.

Racism: I have never seen or heard such racist comments, from people who are reasonably educated and reasonably wealthy--and people seem to think it is OK to be racist!

The tyranny of much of the faith community, particularly some Baptist and Assembly of God congregations. Those folks can get absolutely ugly about anybody who believes differently from them.

The complacency of the "haves" regarding the "have nots." The 'haves' have no idea the conditions under which many people --including a lot of kids-- are living in Springfield. They really don't get beyond their own gated or homogeneous communities very much!

It is a bit too conservative for me; I would wish for a more socially liberal community (although there are pockets of social liberalism in Springfield, thank goodness).

I'd love it if there were more Democrats to balance out the tyranny of the Republicans in most city and state offices.

Better mass transit/bus system.

Better access to flights out of Springfield for a reasonable cost. Airport--including airport parking--is too expensive for what you get.

eliminating prejudice against minority groups

end child abuse and neglect

end drug use

Q2 - What would you most like to change about the Springfield area?

improve the lives of the poor

ending homelessness

Stop trying to force feed diversity or you will see the same results here. The quite will move on and let you deal with the problems you have created !

Blighted neighborhoods mostly in the north side of town should have more city help in improving appearance of houses. Also too much city \$ is spent on fixing traffic problems in the south part of town. Make developers pay higher development fees on new developments and encourage redevelopment of the north side.

Greater participation in higher education among residents

less child abuse

less drub abuse

More outdoor cultural opportunities like big cities have, that include the opportunity to bring a picnic with wine or where you can purchase wine or beer. I think events would be much better attended and generate more revenue if alcohol were for sale. We lived in St. Louis and attended Jazz in June at the Botanical Gardens where we would pack a picnic with wine. We went to the Balloon Glow at Forest Park and bought wine, etc. That's what this city needs.

I would also like to see jobs with higher wages. It is hard to make a really good living here unless you own a very successful business. I see a lot of young professionals moving to other cities to advance their careers. We need to do a better job of attracting and retaining young professionals.

I wish we had passenger rail service.

Traffic lights- How long they take to change. A city as big as Saint Louis - Lights don't take even half as long to change as they do here in Springfield.

The congestion of interior Springfield. I think we need additional arterial roadways (parkways) that move traffic without block to block stop lights. This will eventually result in a dead City center and continue to encourage outer belt sprall. I would also like to see a more economically secure "North" Springfield. We are quickly becoming a City of the "have" and "have not's" . I think we need to be much more "transparent" in our City staff dealings and with "insider" information. Too much has occurred under the radar, special deals for special folks. This is what is constantly getting us in trouble. If we are encouraging a developoiment opportunity in an area (i/e Center City or downtown" open it to all and encourage all to participate. The city needs to avail participation and opportunity to all, not just the J. Q Hammons, Tillman and others. We need to assist with development incentives to be working and contributing partners in bringing more about additional retail and industrial development.

No smoking indoors anywhere in the city; bus system; traffic flow;

More green space

Public owned cable would be a great service to the people, and bring in great amounts of revenue--it's not that hard to do.

More cleanup of and updating of neighborhoods--including of commercial.

The way people drive. They are rude and inconsiderate and take not only their own lives into question, but the lives of the people they encounter on the streets.

Better traffic flows in and around city

Our city is left in the shadows of St. Louis, K.C., Branson, Jefferson City and even Lake of the ozarks. We are the third largest city in the state, but other than Bass Pro Shops really don't have much more to offer the out of town traveler.

Traffic patterns

Q2 - What would you most like to change about the Springfield area?

Moving SMS/MSU to Branson

More Loons/Less Rednecks

Intergration

I would like to see Springfield focus more on the dilapidated building and less on worrying about building the next "great" thing!

I would like to see driver training offered to students in school. Class room and driving.

I would like to see some kind of safety tips about how to use new road designs such as the center turn lane, dual turn lanes and diverging diamond interchanges.

Springfield is a wonderful City with much promise. I would like to see more pride in the assets Springfield already has and more focus made on beautifying and maintaining already available assets than in creating new assets. At least in the short term while our entire country is facing an economic downturn. This would be a wonderful time to focus on sustainability of existing assets and sustainability of the residents of the area.

I would like to see more diversity. Not just with regard to ethnicity, but also with regard to religion, political beliefs, and even language.

The trend toward certain groups/people running every thing. It is a big city but at times it seems like small town politics. Reversing the poverty trend would be a good change but that doesn't happen with just more free handouts.

more historical preservation, less/no demolition, more green space (i.e north-east corner of chestnut and national would have been perfect; now it's just another strip mall).

It's too easy to tear down a building. Imagine what south street would look like if all those buildings now restored or being restored and turned into businesses (resturants, etc) and lofts had just been torn down.

Older buildings are what help set our sense of place, our sense of history.

less growth, growth, growth; less destruction of farmland for subdivisions.

streets that I can drive at the speed limit and not hit red stop lights (north-south) and (east-west).

self-sustainable food, self-sustainable energy, historic downtown (not ugly new, outsized, outscaled movie theatres and parking lots, etc)

preservation of residential areas (against institutional creep).

Something to improve the flow of traffic, less cars? Would like to see more Bike lanes. Better public transportation with easy to use routes.

I would like to see more office buildings in downtown instead of the current office space spread around the city. Lower property taxes in downtown would be necessary for that.

-Higher wages; more good professional jobs for entry-level workers.

-Put a new, visually-appealing sign on the bus station. The current sign looks like a junior high art project from the 1980s and screams "We don't give a crap about this place."

-Remove all social service destinations from Commercial Street. I believe Commercial Street has the most potential of any street in Springfield (envision the Delmar Loop in St. Louis). However, the "critical masses" will never venture to C-Street until all social services there are relocated. I know this is probably impossible, but I believe it's true.

-Put something, anything, in the southwest corner of the Square to try to keep away the riffraff who like to lurk there. From Page 63 of The Social Life of Small Urban Places: "The best way to handle the problem of undesirables is to make the place attractive to everyone else."

Q2 - What would you most like to change about the Springfield area?

-Beef up traffic access control along major thoroughfares in the city to help traffic flow more smoothly. It doesn't matter how well the traffic lights are synchronized or how many lanes a street has if there are business driveways every 50 feet.

-As much as possible, beautify the major thoroughfares through town (plant trees, put up some public art, etc.) I try to avoid many of the major roads in town simply because they are so ugly. Driving down Glenstone, south Campbell, Battlefield west of Glenstone, west Chestnut Expressway, and Sunshine west of Campbell is outright depressing. Sunshine between Kansas Expressway and Zimmer Road is probably the ugliest stretch of road I've ever seen. I've even had friends from out of town- without prompting- comment on how ugly that part of the city is. I know that every single street in the city can't be a beautiful piece of urban art, but I believe things can be done to make them less god-awful and depressing to look at. I believe that the appearance of our environment affects us more than we realize.

-Retrofit the major thoroughfares in town. As existing structures (that is, the monotonous, soul-numbing 70's era strip centers that sit along most of the main roads in town) are torn down, require that new buildings be more aesthetically pleasing and that they be built near the front of the lot (yes, this means putting the cars in the back- where they belong) to create more a pedestrian-friendly street. Over time this will lead to a much more pleasing environment.

-Quit letting developers and the "free market" completely dictate land use, where to install traffic lights, etc.

-Mixed use neighborhoods (corner grocers and bars, restaurants, book shops, etc.)

-More condominiums and row-houses.

More sport facilities for the youth

Potholes, street maintenance

Increased diversity

Sustainability, more

Grow inward, increase density to village neighborhoods

More police, create more tickets

Food protection/security

Put regionalism in perspective. Share between count and city government. Need to work together constructively

Extension is in jeopardy because of funding in future

Education regarding the services of extension, importance of education of people

Better communication of needs

Get story out - marketing

More transportation options, intra and extra transit

Ground based and on a regional basis

Regional transit authority

Mindset of morph on north side of town

North/south division

Newspaper – more meaningful and responsible versus a tabloid

Traffic

Spotty public transportation

Bike routes

Road improvements

Quality of students coming out of elementary programs

Drug problem

Q2 - What would you most like to change about the Springfield area?
Better teachers, better salary structures
More carriers for better destinations flying out of Springfield, cheaper airfare
Traffic control; more about stop lights instead of traffic flow
Funding for places like Discovery Center, local support w/tax base
More cooperation with neighboring communities, i.e., Branson
More attractive to incoming businesses via tax incentives

Q3 - What is your vision for the Springfield area in the Year 2030?

Great Christian Values with lots of Community love and spirit.

The universities have an expanded role in the community, which makes the general active community more progressive in their thinking about citizenship.

In 2030 I would like to see Springfield as a pioneer in promoting effective civic engagement and self-governance. It would also be nice to see that Springfield's goals for sustainability and energy efficiency are fully realized.

A community where the gifts of all are valued and nurtured

Modern traffic system. Better integration with surrounding area. Better control of sprawl. Mass transit. Building up and not out and all over in every direction. Make districts for specific purposes.

local government that is not in debt so it can respond to new problems.

A well planed safe town.

"Greener" city. More walkable city. Streets that don't crumble and flood every time it rains. Preservation of open space. Focus on urban infill. Rehabbing of older neighborhoods. Vibrant Commercial Street and Square. A Trader Joe's! :) A GRID bus system. Rail passenger service. Public art. More high end retailers.

TO HAVE THE WEST MEADOWS BUILT IN THE JORDAN VALLEY PARK PROJECT

I figure the taxes will be so high by then I will be forced to move again!

World-class mid-sized city, bicycle friendly, pedestrian friendly, low crime, lower taxes than statewide averages, the kind of city visitors wish they could live in.

sustainability - food, energy & jobs.

More community centered commercial areas (West County St Louis). Expanded air options (cheaper rates). Passenger rail, Jobs, Jobs, Jobs. Expansion of the MS&T/MU relationship.

A modern city that has the comfort of a small town. Better traffic control and ease, more cultural events, more job opportunities, and the completion of Jordan Valley Park.

A city that has been able to accommodate growth, keeping crime and urban deterioration low, and being in the mainstream with medical facilities, employers, entertainment, and technology. Despite the current area I listed as "valued most" I would sacrifice some of that for growth in other areas. I would like to see Springfield as a frontrunner amongst midwest cities.

Livable city with a signature downtown park complex and a welcoming college town feel downtown.

not sure that i ll be here... it looks to me that its going down hill fast i ve been looking for labor work for a yr and still no luck

Basically the same area as it is now (stop annexing adjacent land and encourage redevelopment within city limits), better police and fire protection, lower taxes, less money going to parks, a level playing field for developers and property owners, less intrusion by P&Z, fewer tax "schemes" & more focus on control of city and CU spending and debt.

Hopefully slow growth keeps the hometown feel. But more small business for jobs. But most likely regulated by government to death.

The expansion of Springfield city limits by at least 3-5 miles around its current perimeter. Continue to expand the sewer system and consider more consolidation of City - County government where possible.

A thriving downtown area with completed Jordan Valley Creek renovations; opening up the creek to preserve and show the now hidden arched bridges from the early days.

younger less conservative thinking of the citizens. Better paying jobs to keep the younger folks wanting to live and work here.

Q3 - What is your vision for the Springfield area in the Year 2030?

More diversity in population; more progressive community that overcomes the "agers" who are against progress; could we be the community that is best positioned for the next decade?

strong growth, major air transportation.

I would like to see more big businesses come to Springfield, MO so there would be more employment opportunities.

For the city to be better managed in the financial department. Issues like the pension fund and the stealing at Municipal Court should have been dealt with years ago. We need to quit hoping for tourism dollars to prop us up; ventures with Bass Pro just benefit that corporation. We need to use City Utilities as a major player in energy in the midwest. It is a vast resource for us that we are virtually ignoring. Downtown is a big free for all for drunks and vagrants; my family doesn't go to the downtown area at all. There needs to be more of a police presence there or the reputation will only plummet. I believe that our budget is wasted on some park services like the Rutledge Farm, Ice Park and Chesterfield. Parks that are used by the majority like Fasnacht, Phelps Grove, and Grant Beach should have been improved decades ago. Close down the chicken exhibit and give these kids pool hours every day of the week. I'll bet the Cooper Tennis is a huge budget drain; I think it is a sport on the way out. The city needs to think about utilizing that facility in another way that opens access to more citizens. We are a poor community that needs to count its dollars, and serve the needs of the majority of citizens and not just the few who can afford fees for recreation.

Don't have one

I'd like to see a light rail system & the city bus service to be privately owned and not subsidized by City Utility customer. Springfield has the only city owned bus service in the U.S.

A mecca for education in the blue collar sector, medical, and business. Let's get a medical research/teaching hospital where Cox North is at (at least a VA with a surgical suite and not just a psych facility), bus routes and planned urban living areas where you can walk to work, the store, and home.

The pie in the sky? A passenger train connection to St Louis, Amtrak or otherwise. Be nice to not have to drive back from a Blues game/Cardinals game, day at their museums.

For all neighborhoods to have an established form of public transportation to safely reach all across Springfield. For the bigger parts of the city to invite visitors to its smaller parts and vice versa. I guess a more unified city that is easier to travel and safer to travel through. Some smaller areas are neglected in that respect.

less urban sprawl. Keeping the area nice looking and keeping things like gangs and crime out. That will help more than anything else.

Steady, planned growth

A bustling regional center for arts culture and economic stability.

a stable economy

no more people!

A safe community with nice amenities.

More urbanized.

more police and fire and cleaning up the parks and not adding any new parks

SUSTAINABILITY. We need to give back more to the environment and use less. Put the word GREEN into practice more. Also, going back to crime & drugs. This needs to change significantly.

Green, not so much sprawl, consistency in appearance

Continued visionary concerns of the city government.

Q3 - What is your vision for the Springfield area in the Year 2030?

That is no longer "the suburb in search of a city." That it really becomes a professionally managed, thriving economic powerhouse in the state that makes St. Louis and Kansas City look backward and stagnant. We need the kind of commercial and residential development, coordinated with our universities and health care facilities, etc., that brings in the kind of attractions/amenities that will make people from KS, AR, and elsewhere in MO want to live here, shop here, visit here, retire here. I also want it to be a place where government defers to the citizens, where it serves/listens to us and does not usurp our ownership of this place we support with our tax dollars. I want it to be a smart city -- a place that can't fall prey to narrow agendas or some text book notion of what a city should be. It is messy and volatile to give citizens input -- it doesn't move very fast, nor does it fit neatly with bureaucratic notions of how a city should be run, but it definitely communicates a commitment to accountability and a deference to those who financially support the government.

To have credible people running our City as if it were their own household.

Taking into consideration we are facing years of slow growth, demographics that challenge the success of our endeavors and a city that lacks an identity, I would love to see Springfield become:

1) The city that survived and matured because we learned from our mistakes, expanded our perceptions, grew responsibly and continued to plan ahead.

2) a must-stop destination as you travel the I-44. Right now, the arteries to this freeway do not connect to our destination areas, nor are we well marketed there. Continue to create a desirable experience, than make it easy to get to.

3) A bit biased here, but more capitalistic and less conservative, but, I may have to move for that.

Greater use of public facilities/areas. New families continue to move into Springfield, often people from areas of the country that are far more expensive with much higher property taxes. Instead of using their new property taxes to improve services, it seems like all citizens taxes are continuously raised. One of the greatest attractions for moving here was the cost-of-living in taxes. Our property taxes just continue to rise. They're double what they were when we arrived.

A welcoming, open community. A continued emphasis on the arts and culture, especially in center city. We need more community events, especially ones for the youth. Most importantly, we need to assure continued safety.

Basically, re-read what I would like to change. I do agree with a majority of the water quality, cultural and growth management vision 20/20 goals. Again, by attracting people who will be active in our community, Springfield will go a long ways toward reaching these goals.

a place that's a tad more sophisticated, especially in how it governs itself.

Lots of young educated people living and working in the core area of the city. More diverse cultural, art and entertainment options. Improved sidewalks and bike paths. Decrease in new suburban developments and new apartments and redevelopment of the older neighborhoods instead. Improved R-12 school system.

Steady expansion. Not huge uncontrolled runaway expansion like some areas.

Growth

That the City has been forward-thinking enough so that the infrastructure--streets and traffic control--be able to accommodate the inevitable population growth

I envision continued strength in higher education and medical facilities. I would like to have entertainment options that compare with larger metro areas like St Louis or Kansas City.

I am a big fan of the Ozarks Greenways trail and would like to see development of more healthy-active lifestyle options like this one.

Gone Green for all utilities

Q3 - What is your vision for the Springfield area in the Year 2030?

I'm sure we're doomed in 2012 so I assume Springfield, like the rest of the planet will be all but a memory, and all those people who bought the 'In case of the rapture, this car will be unmanned' bumper stickers will be vindicated

More vibrant downtown area both commercially and improved owner occupied homes in the areas between the square and Commercial St. Better transportation flow around and thru the city.

growth with appropriate roads. Less regulation, if you want the city limits to grow in numbers you need to change your zoning on single family housing to offer smaller lots and more flexibility in desging for affordable housing. You antiquated staff and laws prohibit innovative design.

Controlled growth according to approved plan.

Additional cultural entertainment in the downtown area

Increase in population to 221,000; increase in County population to 390,000.

Potential for growth in gang and minority issues.

The Springfield area, especially outskirts due to the wonderful farming land, has the potential to become a major supplier of healthy, quality food (produce as well as beef and chicken), and with the growing population across America, this is a real need. I hope the farm land is not gobbled up to simply dump poorly planned, poorly built, cheap housing. Better utilization of land is needed, and there is no reason to create the urban spread that so many larger cities are now finding was a mistake.

to maintain's it's wholesomeness while moving forward in the world of technological advances, educational systems advanced, staying on the cutting edge of the medical field and to draw more commerce to the area with higher paying job opportunities.

Improved cultural and entrepranuerial venues, improved infrastructure and road access, preservation of homeowners rights and benefits, no double taxation or transfer taxes,

to place all abandoned buildings on a condemnation agenda and use existing laws to clean up areas of obvious deferred maintenance.

Better infrastructure, increase in tourism through more events such as sports tournaments and special events.

A higher average income.

Improved public transportation, denser developments in Center City. More public and private investment on the northside of town to balance the sprawl occuring on the southside of town.

More cosmopolitan feel. Make this a place that people want to come to visit.

We need recreational/social venues that do not revolve around alcohol consumption.

That we still have a small town feel. I really don't want the bible belt atmosphere to change!

Much the same as it is. A business friendly environment.

Planning (or completion) of a major N-S and E-W mid-city artery for traveling that doesn't use stop-lights but rather exits or off-ramps. Otherwise I'm afraid 65, 60, 44 and West Bypass only encourage the deadening of center-city.

From there new planning guidelines along with redevelopment of old districts that only encourage city beautification. More green space. More trees. Less power lines. More design and STYLE. It's too bad the city couldn't pick a long-running themed design (ex: a modernized art deco) that has proven to withstand the test of time, to allow the city to grow with cohesion.

As well, I don't know if I'm a minority in this, but I love spaces that force traffic out and walking as a must. Brason's Landing is a great example of this, topped off with great social and community gatherings around events/music/etc.

better streets and traffic "management."

more bike "trails"

Q3 - What is your vision for the Springfield area in the Year 2030?

more cultural activities.

"beautification" through more planting of flowers/trees. Fewer signs, especially real estate signs and those posted on street corners about "hot tub sales" and that type thing.

A beautiful city with a revitalized down-town, continued residential & commercial growth, streets that can adequately handle the growth, and economic stability (including new employment opportunities).

To make living, socializing, and shopping north of Sunshine more popular. I feel like businesses are investing (Hollywood Theater, downtown and Commercial Street businesses, etc) but folks are afraid to move north of Sunshine due to the crime and riff raff. That makes it hard for the businesses to succeed. And I don't mean everyone move into lofts downtown; I mean the neighborhoods in center city, many of which have fallen into disrepair.

Good city & county governance with lots of input of the citizenry. We would have a beltway around the city and everything within would have 100% city services including: water, sewer, fire & police protection and with adequate schools.

A prosperous, growing city and metro area. A retail, transportation, manufacturing, medical and educational "hub"

a more involved citizen involvement

to grow Southward across into Christian county with better roads like Kansas Expressway to the south with Cox Road to Nixa.

A community that attracts major transportation carriers as competitive rates. Also, a community that values education as evidenced in quality educational staff and compensation packages that establish the benchmark for Missouri. Also, our community should value its firefighters and law enforcement in much the same way as was mentioned for education professionals

Growth driven by safety and affordability

Downtown area is 80% renovated and is economically viable. Legitimate public transit system. Neighborhoods that are declining now have been provided irresistible business/community/government loans to build new or renovate so that the neighborhoods do not continue to decline.

Continue to keep our crime down and the feeling of small town with big city opportunities!

Larger population more diverse, good housing market

A larger city, vibrant, with a definable urban core, a demand for high-end housing, and a walkable and sustainable form of urbanism, less dependent on the automobile.

A community, city and county that protects our freedoms.

Continuation of quality affordable housing and economic growth

Steady, planned growth. Low taxes.

Urban and suburban build up with clearer lines of traffic flow through specified corridors

Hopefully we can improve our salaries and increase the manufacturing base here. We need to be a major exporter of goods. We have the central location for it.

more jobs less regulation, electing officials that put our city first in setting the pace for new business. Not retail

Balance public services with community involvement and volunteerism. Low crime, excellent education, strong services for elderly.

More equality in services to the north side and less expansion to the south side. Leave us some room for housing on the south side.

Economic hub for mid-west part of country

Q3 - What is your vision for the Springfield area in the Year 2030?

At that time I would be 90 years old. Hope to be here and see more green space. Green belt spaces and parks.

So to speak, one where pedestrian or bicycle access to facilities is more important than adding fly-overs and new lanes.

Finally act like a city of its population

Springfield population will be a lot larger, probably quite a bit more than expected.

We need to start adjusting now.

A free market, business friendly place to live, raise your family and prosper with planned growth that preserves property and individual rights.

Lots of different and expected cultural areas. Lots of green ways and trees and flower beds. Maybe some pedestrian outdoor areas.

I would like to see better mass transit. Both inside the city and between bedroom communities.

Also wouldn't it be nice if a high rail system is built connecting metro areas across the country similar to Europe.

More manufacturing and/or large companies in our area to provide jobs.

Great highways and tree-lined streets, mixed communities (like Chesterfield Village intended). Low crime rate, renovated older neighborhoods.

Efficient mass transit; additional pockets of the town rehabbed (like the city center); and satellite shopping hubs.

To take the median age of residents down by at least 5 - 10 years; A more vibrant, well educated, cleaner and diverse (race, sexual orientation, nationality) city, which has still maintained its sense of community; a partnership with area colleges and local businesses to 'recruit from within the area', so that more students stay here; a broader, more expansive public parks system reaching further into the county; City leadership that continues to be progressive, realistic and moves the area into new ways of thinking; the completion of the Jordan Valley development corridor; mandatory recycling through businesses and residential areas; other entertainment/nightlife/shopping districts throughout town, other than downtown

A Hip, Cool, Intellectual center for the Ozarks and Midwest with a high quality of life.

Growing bustling vibrant city, filled with lots of job opportunities, growing neighborhoods, lots of construction as the city continues to meet the growing demands of retirees and families wishing a slice of heaven.

I do not think one soul in Springfield could think of what may happen before then. But, there is one thing I want. I do not think Police Officers, the Council nor government can provide it. Not the way things are going now. I want peace and harmony, and I'm not running for a Beauty Contest. The peace of Jesus.

more community-oriented policing

better storm water control

better access to greenways

city and neighbourhoods more sustainable

localization of food supply and products made in USA

easy lock bike racks all over town

locker room, shower facility in downtown/midtown area

reusable bikes (Montreal model with 30 free minutes)

full time City bike-pedestrian coordinator

encourage denser living patterns

IDEA Commons plan further developed

Q3 - What is your vision for the Springfield area in the Year 2030?

live independently and get to grocery store, etc

more alternative energy

keep utility rates low

consider aging population in planning process

jobs

safer

traffic spokes around city

better stormwater system

lighting and sidewalks

improve walk path at Cooper Tennis Complex

growth and higher wages

more jobs and industry

see change, but keep small town feel

small town definition will change by 2030 -- Governor's definition

universities creating pool for ideas for growth

recognition that if there are no growth prospects it's not good -- small towns are suffering

find a brand for SGF

become a magnet city

entrepreneurial and economic spirit

create a research triangle

health care industry good focus for education

avoid mistakes of StL and KC -- lost a lot of jobs. become viable 3rd option.

visualize SGF in 5 years and 20 years.

Cox and St. John's combine/work together to create high tech, biomedical sciences

transportation overlays

growth that requires vision and partnership that also compliments resources we have

infill city with residential and commercial next to each other -- build within current boundaries

expand downtown -- infrastructure already exists

public transportation

bike trails

respect older neighbourhoods

transportation

sustainability

philanthropic giving

diversity

lower crime

race issues -- racists gone

jurors don't want to sentence abuse cases

less tolerance for abuse and incidents

update older high schools to compete with Nixa and Ozark

no more strip malls

beautify city

prepare for boom of senior population

place where kids can plan a few blocks down the street with no worries

get health care costs in line

Q3 - What is your vision for the Springfield area in the Year 2030?

put ourselves in a position to be able to respond to problems as they arise without the issues we have now.

different newspaper

city to be financially sound

transportation, street widening, more lanes

good health and workout facilities

consider a Mayo-type clinic

protected and safe community

pay raises, benefits

pay at respectable level -- identify benchmark cities

change performance evaluation to merit-base pay

market base pay

salary disbrused between those doing work

A City that has planned for a future of limited resources (especially energy) and met those challenges so that we continue to prosper.

We have a more literate population who individually value their rights and responsibilities to think critically, support worthy causes, and exercise their vote.

Much like 1930. Government will have driven away industry and employers and taxpayers will all have moved to growth areas. City govt will be left looking for income to feed the welfare class.

Airport with more flight choices. Continued emphasis on upgrading housing in the inner city.

That we continue our pursuit to promote Springfield as a growing urban center for young professionals, artists, and creatives.

I hope for an expanding growth in manufacturing jobs that will foster overall good growth in the community.

bigger city, but not too crowded. more variety of stores,shopping,better roads, bigger expanded freeways,football team,street of dreams home shows.

By 2030 I hope Springfield will have forged stronger working relationships with all the satellite communities surrounding it. I hope the metropolitan region with Springfield at its hub will have focused on several key progressive industries, and made a concerted effort to cultivate those industries. I hope the public schools will continue to enjoy strong support - especially from the business and civic community. I hope the downtown and Commercial Street marketplaces - and other urban core areas - will continue to enjoy investment so that the older parts of our city do not become blighted. I hope that planning and zoning and land use standards can be extended throughout the metropolitan region. As our national focus shifts from oil to renewable sources of energy, I hope Springfield will embrace the infrastructure changes necessary to make that transition.

A cleaner city with positive things happening in all sectors. More mass transit and continued focus on parks, schools, etc.

Cleaner and Greener administered City.

A connected workforce to jobs and job training opportunities.

The poverty level much reduced with ample services available for those in need.

More culturally diverse.

There is no reason that Springfield can't be a model city for the entire country. We should be able to grow our economic base through new technology (possibly green energy) jobs, strengthen our police and fire enforcement to create an optimally low crime rate. Focus resources and energy to making our primary school district one of the exceptional districts in the nation.

Q3 - What is your vision for the Springfield area in the Year 2030?

See the last question. By 2030 we will have had to change our transportation habits. We will have to live near our work and our shopping. Hopefully, we will have an adequate public transportation system by then - - which we certainly do not have now.

Broadband Internet in every home, a connected, participative community, more efficient city operations with a smaller budget per capita than we currently operate on.

more mass transit options

Less development on the fringes of the city/denser redevelopment in the core. Reinvestment in city owned properties to make them more energy efficient and pleasant to use.

more walking,biking areas to encourage nonmotorized transportation - or even more mass transportation

better housing

A revitalized downtown, including Commercial street. The complete funding of the police/fire pension fund. A comprehensive solution to the homeless situation.

Continued growth of stable jobs and quality of life for the population. More opportunities for small businesses to learn and grow their businesses. Cutting edge Educational systems that teaches to all levels of students abilities and interests.

to be clean, green, still thriving economically, have an incredibly low crime rate and schools rated best in the country. I'd like to see development of Strafford coming into Springfield, and development connecting the route between Springfield and Branson.

In 2030, I see a series of pods of people where they can work, live and play within an area that can be accessed by foot, bike or an effecient public transportation system.

I see a series of strong neighborhoods in the center of our city that are NOT just cash cows for slumlords but rather offer diverse and respected housing opportunities to a variety of people and incomes.

A clean city with safe schools and friendly neighborhoods. Along with rapid cost effective city transportation.

To have the square done(Heers) and to see the theatre area full. Finish re-energizing the downtown environment.

My vision of 2030 Springfield would be a collection of micro-farms and urban agriculture. Instead of all of the greenways and city parks, some city land (such as underneath the Grant street bridge) would be used to create micro farms, artist space, open air markets and other destination spots to draw in tourists heading to Branson, Tulsa or St. Louis. For substantial growth Springfield needs a unique destination spot in addition to Bass Pro, weather it's a NHRA dragstrip or some sort of eco-tourist spot as mentioned above, Springfield desperately needs additional attractions to draw in the visitors traveling on 1-44, 60 and 65. This spot would utilize bio-diesel, wind energy, solar power and other new energies. To offset changes in weather patterns indoor farming might also be a necessity. This could be done in center city, by converting warehouse space, silos and other buildings into vertical urband farms.

Right now our city is structured for people in cars and in twenty years I'd like to see that changed. If we get people out of their cars, we'll reduce pollution and energy usage, increase the sense of community, and improve residents' mental and physical health.

Additionally, I'd like to see our community be greener - literally! More plants and fewer single-level parking lots will make the city a more pleasant place to live.

A clean green city with low crime and economic stability with a focus on "quality" everything.

A cleaner more beatiful and vibrant city, more greenway trails, with more people fixing up propery in the city center and moving in.

Q3 - What is your vision for the Springfield area in the Year 2030?

To still have the historic districts with their buildings in tact, and put into viable use along with all the other property in Springfield. More businesses, jobs, and residents in the city.

efficient city management and oversight with a strategic plan for city improvements

Fully staffed and experienced firefighters and law enforcement officers. Teachers earning their keep and being paid accordingly. Local merchants and businesses being fully supported by the people of Springfield. Area contractors being awarded area work. A self reliant, self serving city/community.

Really, looking at the strides the West Coast has made towards promoting wellness is a great example of what I believe we can become

The Heers building is gone, the park central area is essentially unchanged, there is not speculative building therefore not as many empty stores...

I would like to see better schools, where even the people whose children are gone from the schools see the value of educating the young, and I would like to see better use of resources.

Ideally- a clean, low crime, healthy city!

I would love to see the downtown area continue to develop with restaurants, nightclubs, theaters, galleries, shopping, lofts etc. I believe that a strong downtown is essential for developing a strong city.

I would also love to see the greenways and bike routes continue to expand all over the city. The greenways offer a cheap, clean, and healthy alternative to commuting for those who live and work close enough to utilize them. I see them as a great, inexpensive alternative to more conventional ideas of mass transit. They can help reduce traffic problems, improve the air quality, reduce pollution, and improve the health of our citizens.

I think the city would be wise to focus part of it's public image on the great outdoor opportunities in the area addition to it's urban appeal. The urban/nature opportunities within such close proximity is very appealing to a lot of people.

Finally, I'd love to see more neighborhood groups to help develop more cohesive communities.

A vibrant, economically diverse community with increased wages, reduced poverty, and a population as educated as citizens of New England.

Traffic flow that keeps up with the pace of growth in the area. I believe what we Springfield is doing is great.

A moderately larger regional hub of services and technology delivery, featuring health care services and higher paying technology careers.

Wow! A ways off. Well, that we will grow in our work related business and also put more interest in our schools for our children. Maybe our parks and recreation area would improve also. Not that it is not good now.

There will be plenty of the kind of jobs here that make university students want to stay in Springfield to look for work after they graduate.

better roads, more up-to-speed with big city cultural events

better bus service to go to connecting towns and buses that would run later

A semi-metropolitan area kind of like maybe Tulsa or the suburbs of KC, KS. I would love to see us on the leading edge of some culture and business innovations from our own ingenuity which would create great jobs for all of our students and young professionals and encourage them to live here and participate in our plans and take responsibility.

A diverse and economically viable mid-sized town that celebrates arts, culture, and history

growth with a vision of long term strength economically, as well as quality of life.

Q3 - What is your vision for the Springfield area in the Year 2030?

My vision is for a Springfield that builds on its strengths and looks at its weaknesses to turn them into strengths. I'd like to see Springfield have more resources for those seeking work, more abundance of art and creative programs and a livable, realistic tax base for those living here which meets or exceeds the need for services for its citizens.

sustainability in all ways

schools be center of community

be ready for change in technology and not be caught behind curve

public transportation via light rail and grid

revitalize center city neighbourhoods

avoid urban sprawl

integrate culturally

provide service for mature community (baby boomers)

high quality education for PreK

work together with surrounding communities to be a metropolitan area

abolish legislature and each individual vote

maintain family values

water usage

joint law enforcement

infrastructure needs when population moves inward

incubator thinking system to keep in front of issues instead of reacting to issues.

better north-south travel system getting out of city

trash, franchise

no waste

take measures to "green up" -- solar initiatives, roof top gardening incentives

invest in better public transport and better bike lanes

invest in Amtrak station on C-Street

more recycling centers/offer curbside recycling

intergovernmental cooperation

fiscal soundness -- wean from municipal debt and build up reserves

city organization

infrastructure funding -- new solutions to transportation and stormwater funding

greener

more connected

fewer cars on the road, more public transit and greenways

jump ahead of all cities -- have solar panels and wind turbines everywhere

better transportation planned region-wide

bike roads

tackle small, manageable change regarding climate change, with bigger goal in mind

make things feasible to change by 2030

make environmental actions in one entity instead of separated

helping community be cleaner and healthier by having urban streams clean

people to be healthier by walking and biking to work and eating healthier local foods

city makes decisions that place value of social equity and true cost of goods -- transportation, etc.

offer people things they can choose from as far as transportation so they don't feel like they're being told to do something

need for school curriculum to follow strategic plan, civic engagement, and value of quality of life.

Q3 - What is your vision for the Springfield area in the Year 2030?

more comprehensive highway system through/around town
get highly educated people involved in process
do not draw crime element into city
better broadband to improve access to technology
wide range of sophisticated transportation modes
more gardens
fill more buildings before building more
denser community -- less sprawl
bike rentals, more bike friendly
alternative energy -- more commitment to sustainability
curbside, free recycling
bike routes/increased safety
walking/running routes -- like Lincoln, NE
revamped transportation arteries
Heer's building finished
not be so concerned with downtown area
combined city/county government
commercial street returned to former glory
move people out of poverty
better paying jobs with benefits
chamber needs to take more initiative to raise wages and hire people with high school degrees or GEDs
place where people communicate in neighborhoods and care for each other
continued growth of downtown/center city
previous visioning agreements and plans honored and kept
significantly reduced carbon footprint
good healthcare available
every facet of K12 process needs to be a full-on community process -- full communication, different school zones treated differently now in quality of facilities, teachers, etc
all city government employees required to live in city limits (AC-- legal issues with this one)
local food supply -- food self sufficiency
walkable, bikeable community
accessible, affordable broadband
regional medical hub feeding on baby boomer aging
attractive to young professionals and retirees
higher population density -- incentives?
better funded city government
regional transit authority
underground utilities
viable pedestrian transportation -- more biking, even if it takes a tax
west bypass upgraded to a true highway
great job market and employment opportunities
lines are blurred between city/county -- consolidation
more collaboration among entities, public and private
leadership among Council, civic, and private business to get things done even if it steps on a few toes -- eg:
Kansas Expressway extension

Q3 - What is your vision for the Springfield area in the Year 2030?

city is a much bigger player on convention circuit

consider mass transit improvements

beautification leading to a more aesthetically pleasing city throughout -- even on private property. CU should not be afraid to get tough and lead

consolidation of city and county zoning rules to make them uniform and reinforce

bigger and well-maintained parks system

bigger universities -- continued growth

Wonders of Wildlife open

important projects not done cheaply

uniqueness maintained

poverty level reduced

economic development group with travel/tourism subcommittee

don't have down on hotel next to Expo center

management contract of Expo Center needs to be tied to adjacent lot

high-speed rail. build coalition throughout region to support

stop naming county roads by numbers

city leading on recycling and is easier and simpler to do

infrastructure built in way that encourages walking and biking

convention businesses and downtown creating big synergy

It completely depends on how the city supports the local economy. It could be great or terrible.

container facility connected to rail line - shipping improvements

birth-16 education system

Heer's developed

culture of support for creative, entrepreneurial business - keeping kids here to go to college and after they graduate

support for arts in businesses/public art

Grand Rapids model of health care - collaboration

continue to promote development of Jordan Valley

MSU collaboration with MO Institute of Science and Technology (UMR) to bring engineering here

more than one newspaper voice

more gardens

more pleasing parkways, streetscapes

competitive convention center/upscale hotels and sports facilities

more bike/pedestrian lanes

attract 25-35 year olds with different backgrounds and skillsets to develop technology and engineering jobs

public mass transit

changes in technology shift - computers and transportation

foster development of SpringNet

make sure we have "enjoyable density"

West Meadows primed for surrounding development

be able to say we have cheap power and available water

ability to get into and out of Springfield via air service

better relationship with Branson

make sure Springfield is in high-speed rail national network

public transportation improvements like D.C. metro

Q3 - What is your vision for the Springfield area in the Year 2030?

bike paths all over town, and mandatory on new roads

proactive planning, especially for greenspace

preserve air quality

reduce crime

become cultural center of Midwest

be manufacturing hub for new technology

workforce development to accomodate jobs

be safe; have enough courts to keep up with problems

make roads more beautiful as well as functional

more division 1 and/or pro sports teams

establish a community brand and logo

more appealing places to hang out other than downtown for kids who live further away

Springfield will be a city with an expanded greenways network that allows citizens to get anywhere by trail. An efficient bus system is used by a wide spectrum of citizens, sustainable development has become the norm and we have many new and revitalized n

reduced traffic, reduced auto reliance

robust public transit c. 1930's Springfield

regional leader in renewable energy production

regional leader in 'GREEN' development through technology / industry, low-impact development and construction

robust urban villages within city

locally produced food network / markets

community gardens are commonplace

urban agriculture compatible with density, even allowing livestock (chickens, ducks, rabbits, goats)

West Glade hosting the 10th annual Missouri urban conservation conference

Sanitary sewers in the older urban neighborhoods that keeps stormwater and blackwater separate and out of citizens' basements

Reduction of crime in urban neighborhoods

Lots of open space mixed with good growth

Clean water and outdoor recreation oppurtunities

Based on what I've seen, a very poor place with no job openings and an extremely rich city government thanks to the little "administrative fees" that the average hard-working citizen has to pay out for running stop signs at 2 AM or forgetting to renew their tags the day before. Scratch that, we'll have long sold our cars and bought buggies.

Safety - personal and economical with advancement in diversity, cosmopolitan sophistication and progress towards the future (ie the year 2050)

More walking communities

Better access to recycling

Increased sidewalks and bike routes

I want the city to be able to put down the cliquish mantality toward young Business owners an start to offer those young people like me the chance to grow my business

have the Square and downtown area be a vital place for small businesses and loft living for young professionals. also would like to see colleges (Drury, SBU, Evangel, MSU, etc.) partnering on entrepreneurship initiatives.

A progressive city with low crime, natural beauty, and strong economy.

Q3 - What is your vision for the Springfield area in the Year 2030?

Managed growth.

Less traffic congestion.

More green

I want it to stay the same, just better, not bigger.

Increased overall awareness of what "Quality of Life & Living" means; from Environmental Issues & Education of the Adult Community to increased quality of long-term Budget Planning.

to be a flourishing, diverse city that values small business and focuses on green spaces

Stronger financial base for operations of city government.

More youth and children's opportunities in family recreation and social life.

Greater employment opportunities in businesses locating here.

I doubt that I will live long enough to see it.

- More urban in every way (except crime)
 - More improved/thriving districts like downtown that are walkable as well as livable and have jobs attached
 - More and better grocery stores and foodie shops (specialty foods, Trader Joe's, Whole Foods, etc.)
 - More diverse population with more ethnic and religious backgrounds
 - A better plan in place for unclaimed cats and dogs and hopefully an end to ridiculous breeding in the outskirts of town
 - More jobs based on science and higher education
 - Hopefully more big-name acts in music and performance
- Continue to be a wholesome, family-oriented, desirable, affordable midwestern city.
- More freedom.
- A community that can support itself with as little outside commodities and services as possible.
- I would like to see improvement to street and blighted areas. I do not want to see Springfield spread out more than it is.
- no smoking in public areas
- small communities within larger metro area (like StL, where Manchester, Ballwin, Kirkwood, etc are all basically StL).

regional view of area

annexation of Ozark and Nixa to Sgf

lower cost of living

variety of higher paying jobs

fix run down homes

lower taxes so people can afford to upkeep homes

reduction of child abuse and meth

monorail

going green

city-wide FREE WiFi

chestnut expressway as a raised freeway with no traffic lights

major league sports team to Sgf -- football

become self-sustaining by bringing higher-end goods and services to area -- Apple Store and PF Chang's, especially

be able to pass bond initiatives

city events on the scale of StL and KC

more parks on south end of town

Q3 - What is your vision for the Springfield area in the Year 2030?

promote electric cars

roof gardens on 3+ story buildings

larger budget for emergency responders

Robust science and technology component to industry

Curbside recycling

Completely revitalized downtown

Wi-Fi system wide in schools – bandwidth

Underground utilities – no power lines

Additional tools and/or funding to attract businesses and providing jobs

Word “tolerance” was not a dirty word in the community

Mass transit

Main transit or train

Sustainable food source and green space

Working on the above issues I described above.

That Evangelicals break with the fundamentalist mindset and embrace a less hostile view towards secular liberals, the significant homosexual community, and Arabic internationals, while maintaining (and even embracing to a greater depth) their Evangelical convictions. That Evangelicals would do less confrontational proselytizing and more service-oriented forms of outreach.

A reasonably priced grocery store in the downtown area.

Community vegetable gardens.

NO MORE CUL-DE-SACS. DIE CUL-DE-SACS DIE. If Springfield wants its citizens to continue to live isolated, narcissistic, consumer-driven lives that take advantage of public institutions without thought, care, or effort to know--much less help--their neighbors, they should encourage the development of neighborhoods full of cul-de-sacs. Make a grid!

A thriving metropolis with huge emphasis on green technology!

Factories that work without coal and gas. Use cleaner energy sources.

Keep small town feel

More mass transit. Metro link downtown and an Amtrak from St. Louis to KC to Spfld

More job opportunities for next generation

Bigger and taller buildings

More secure jobs

Stronger schools

Safer neighborhoods

Lower dropout rates

More recreation outdoors, like outdoor skating, libraries, and shopping

Lower prices for people who can't afford much

Cleaner areas and parks

Maintenance on parks can be new jobs.

Open area – plant trees and community gardens – outdoor basketball and volleyball courts

More indoor pools

More walking trails

Utilize area around Fellows Lake for greenways trails

More athletic opportunities outside of school like at Cooper Sports Complex

More exotic animals at the zoo

Better zoo – petting zoo – drive thru zoo (like Exotic Animal Paradise)

Q3 - What is your vision for the Springfield area in the Year 2030?

More Habitat for Humanity projects

60/65 interchange completed

Mandatory recycling

Even better parks system, still supported by the community

Greater understanding how all the different aspects of the community connect to and affect each other

Medical school and the research that comes along with that

Finished downtown redevelopment, especially the west central area

More manufacturing base

"One stop shop" for services, especially early childhood development

Improved system of communication throughout the community; better coverage by a better local media

Downtown is a truly a place for everyone to come together for events

Increased voter turnout

More kids staying in school and going on to get a higher education

The kinds of facilities "that our kids deserve" – many upgraded facilities will be necessary by 2030

State reps working more closely with local groups and helping to identify funding needs and getting more of them funded

Combine city and county into a single charter government

Community problems, especially concerning young kids, are more often addressed as a business and long-term economic development issue

Faith leaders are more involved at the civic level and help connect a large segment of the community to civic actions and vice versa

bicyclists that either know the rules or stop riding.

low cost of utilities

greener than it currently is

more high-end shopping so SGF becomes a "destination" for small town people to come to shop as opposed to StL or KC.

My vision would be to see all electric installations go underground for city beautification and health.

Cleaner.

Greener in both parks and energy useage.

Recycling mandated by the city.

Increased public transportation to surrounding communities and within Springfield. Attracting more professional companies and manufacturing industries to move to Springfield to help increase wages and standard of living.

More community friendly activities, more culture and entertainment, better infrastructure.

Developed center city, less sprawl (and fewer strip malls), more green space

I won't be alive then, but I would hope that Springfield with have a diverse population.

Mostly more of the same but I would like to see some improvements in the transportation system. I believe a true, limited access north/south expressway is needed near the middle of the city.

More interior growth. There is so much undeveloped empty property within the city limits. More growth equals greater tax revenues instead of raising taxes on top of existing taxes.

a city free of over-regulated public school guidelines, corrupt and crooked officials, and trigger happy police officers.

Q3 - What is your vision for the Springfield area in the Year 2030?

More employment opportunities, more parks and greenspace if possible, rehabilitate as many depressed areas as possible; further reduce crime.

Free people that are able to live their lives without too much taxes. Sustainable living, a revitalization of manufacturing where Springfield is now an exporter rather than an importer for goods.

Unfortunately we will most likely be under Socialism and no longer a free people because of Globalism

Honest city government that helps the entire community; good jobs; better education & cultural opportunities.

No more city bending over backwards for small time idiot local "developers" while real development (factories, science centers, etc) goes elsewhere.

Rail service to anywhere.

Cost effective government. Lower tax burdens.

Keep all the great things we have now, but make them better. Moderate growth with more shopping and entertainment to draw in people from the surrounding communities to come here and spend money and pay sales tax. Employment opportunities so that our young people can stay here or come back here after college or military.

I don't care I'll be dead. Very interested in the next 10 though DAH.

A safe and secure environment to raise a family, with professional parks, street, public safety departments.

More police officers to limit the growth of crime and the ability for voters to choose the management group running CU.

Thriving community, with a strong central arts and retail presence.

Continued investment and development of the areas parks and natural resources.

Please, NO DIVERSITY!! Look what happened, for instance, in St. Cloud, MN where we used to live. High crime, Muslims making demands big time, no longer safe. Welfare rolls up big time. Long-time citizens being threatened by these minorities (Arabs, Somalians, Hispanics).

To really become the alternative to St. Louis and Kansas City. When you find out that Springfield is the third largest city, I think one expects to find a little more. The recent efforts to revamp downtown should continue. I would also like to see Springfield grow upwards, creating a downtown and skyline that is impressive to visitors and residents alike. Springfield is a hub of the Ozarks, and in 2030 it could easily be a hub of the region connecting cities like K.C., St. Louis, Little Rock and Tulsa.

Sustainability and all that encompasses that word. I think as a community we need to give back to future generations more than we take. Too many don't understand the impact of what we are doing now and where it will lead if nothing changes. Scarey. How many landfills will be around our city in 2030? What that can do to our underground water and caves. Natural beauty and creatures may be extinct in our area because of lack of responsibility NOW and redirecting efforts to a better way of doing things.

Here's one small example for a much broader topic. (i.e. I'd like to visit Fantastic Caverns in 2030 and have the cave fish still exist there.)

Also, a few other subjects to address would be energy for our city and how we may be self-sufficient and not depend on outside grids for regular energy use.

Our water supply and how to address the growing population that will exist in 2030. "What is working now?" versus "What will work in 2030?" May be very different.

Q3 - What is your vision for the Springfield area in the Year 2030?

A continued diversified economy. A community that continues to have a strong emphasis in giving back. We are a very generous community.

Improved communication lines, improved city services, more opportunities for citizens to be involved, better fiscal responsibility (i.e. Pension issues) and a tax base that allows for fair and equitable assessments of our citizens to support our City infrastructure and needs.

A growing spreading metropolis.

Rich, vibrant academic and learning (from pre-k through higher ed) community leading to higher paying, more satisfying jobs in research, technology and healthcare for a greater number of citizens.

A city with a focus on technology and higher education with a strong arts culture. Of course we can use a strong manufacturing center as well.

A safe and good place for our children, our college grads will be able to find jobs here, along with enough clean air and water. And the center of the city will be the new suburb as it becomes the new, renewable resource using pipes and lines, preferably underground, already in place and ready for reuse.yea!

Still low cost of living, low taxes, high quality of life, attractive community for new businesses and visitors.

A city where dozens of sports groups want to come to Springfield to compete and bring millions of dollars with them to spur the economy. This is a MUST!

Right now my vision is reserved. Without City fiscal responsibility (NO NEW TAXES) the future would seem bleak. Renewed commitment and dedication to common good by the government will build trust and a willingness of residents to do their part.

That attitudes CHANGE toward our minority community. That the minority college students, high school, and elementary students feel that there is opportunity for them in this community. We lose too many and they are prosperous and a blessing to other communities.

a beautiful downtown, heirs demolished and rebuilt, the center plaza beautiful

Have police and Fire Pension fixed!

convert to Lger plan. that is what everyone in living in Springfield has to do. why are they better?

LOTS OF HIGH-TECH BUSINESSES.

HIGH EMPLOYMENT.

EXCELLENT EDUCATION, INCLUDING HIGHER EDUCATION.

MORE ETHNIC AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY.

MORE BIKE TRAILS; LIGHT RAIL, AND OTHER LOW-POLLUTING MASS TRANSIT.

CONCENTRATION OF EMPLOYERS HOUSING, SERVICES IN, CALL THEM, VILLAGES OR NEIGHBORHOODS WITHIN THE CITY TO MINIMIZE COMMUTING TIME, TO FOSTER CLOSER COMMUNITY, AND TO AND PRESERVE ENERGY RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

GREATER PARTNERSHIPS AMONG BUSINESS, ACADEMIA, GOVERNMENT AND NON-PROFITS FOR A HEALTHY, SELF-SUSTAINING COMMUNITY.

That every person--children in particular--has safe housing, enough to eat, and a guarantee of affordable health care. I would love a single-payer, government system, or an expansion of MEDicare/Medicaid to cover everyone not currently covered by private insurance.

That the schools are both effective and safe, with a 95% graduation rate.

That developers would seem to care more about the environment and the beauty of the community than they do--bury the utility lines, don't cut down all the trees, don't build so many apartments, so that the community looks beautiful.

Q3 - What is your vision for the Springfield area in the Year 2030?

That there was an effective bus system that really got you where you wanted to go in a reasonable time.

That there was the opportunity for full employment with a living wage for people. If you work at Walmart, you can't raise a family on what you make and you probably need a second job just to keep food on the table. I think the ability to make a living wage should be a basic right.

means of transportation greatly expanded including bike paths, trains, better grid system bus routes and more Greenways trails

better air quality

more recycling and conservation efforts

setting aside more green spaces for parks

services for early childhood; quality day care at affordable prices, pre-kindergarten in public schools

more diversity

less racism

high school graduation rate up to 90%

Stop the druggies and lower the crime rate. We lived in many major cities and never lost a thing to theft. Been here 10 yrs and have been vand/robbed 4 times. p.s. We live in the southeast part of town-So. Hills

Rehab most of the area north of Chestnut Expressway, provide improved public transit especially at night, Make Christian County and their residents pay for traffic trouble they cause to Springfield

Vibrant, balanced economy driven by engaged local residents that actively maintain their own and their neighbors' high quality of life

place children first in city decisions

city transportation

more expectations for recycling

Continue to grow but keep our small town values and entrepreneurial spirit.

More "mixed use" in our existing and new neighborhoods. A fantastic parks system.

Having alot of Free things to go to like the city of Saint Louis does.

A vibrant community that supports continued growth and economic development. This will enable our children and grandchildren to remain as residents, with career employment and go on to do build a stable quality of life community into the future for Springfield.

Small transit system, either very basic train or downtown tram (from baseball field to west meadows); more parks with lighting; bike trails linking everywhere; turning Chestnut Expy. into a limited access highway through downtown; limit sprawl creating more density (low building taxes downtown); commuter rail from Rogersville, Ozark, Nixa, Republic and Willard into Springfield; more solar and geothermal power usage.

Light rail connecting sgf with ozark, nixa, boliver, Branson and buffalo

More of the same, which is common.

More green space and less buildings, stores, restaurants, malls, etc. It has very little green space now that someone doesn't build on immediately.

Even more of an economic hub than now

Better highway system hopefully connected to a major tourist attraction that would benefit our citizens and attract out of town travelers.

Sincere Gun Control

Sincere Imbreeding Control

Q3 - What is your vision for the Springfield area in the Year 2030?

My vision for 2030 for the Springfield area is for there to be most business and residents "going green". Not only will it help our children and grandchildren but ultimately save the earth!

Better planning for growth of single family homes and apartments.

Better mass transit planning to help make it convenient and easy for those who don't or can't drive.

I'd like to see a vibrant City with a positive attitude. An attitude that celebrates the good in our people and economic assets, as well as the beautiful parks our City offers. At the same time, celebrating the positive can only be accomplished well when accompanied by continued vigilance and scrutiny. Poor practices must be recognized and ceased because they threaten the destruction of those celebrated positive assets. I am a member of the Well-Fed Neighbor Alliance. I have heard one of the founders of that alliance speak about an "edible landscape." This could further beautify the City of Springfield AND offer health benefits to the GREATEST asset of the City, our resilient people! Rather than marigolds and tulips or non-fruit bearing trees in the medians of our roadways and on empty City lots, I could envision a landscape that could provide fruit, nuts and vegetable to those who are hungry among us.

Less big splashy projects like the new and improved Herr's, or parking garages, or needless decoration - and more infrastructure, and attention to schools.

Continued group of parks to provide recreational opportunities, a vibrant educational system (higher ed included) and a city that does not have ghettos or dangerous areas because things have been maintained; a city that is not bankrupt because they have lived within their means and looked to the private sector of answers; and a city with lots of diverse employment options because the city has been successful at attracting companies and helping them stay here.

[caution - some are more realistic than others! :^]

the city has at least one (and maybe more!) permanent employee who's only job is historic preservation (right now Daniel Neal is assigned to this part time, but his other duties overwhelm him and he can not give the time to preservation that is needed).

By 2030, commercial street is completely restored and bustling with activity, crowded with pedestrians, shopping, eating, socializing, people *want* to be there. Not with bars and dance halls, but restaurants, local businesses, etc.

no more large parking garages downtown.

Bike paths permeate the city, north-south, east-west, etc.

Springfield is known throughout Missouri (and the US?) as a place famous for restoring historic wood windows, rather than replacing them with vinyl. That only wood has already lasted 50-100 years and will last much longer than any vinyl product made today (made today with petroleum based products). If they are properly restored and adjusted, old wood windows are equally energy efficient as new vinyl windows. But restoring old wood windows is expensive - but you get what you pay for - put more money in now, then you don't have to pay more later. Go with the cheaper vinyl product, and you'll be doing it again in 30-40 years from now, and then 30-40 years after that, etc.

Springfield public schools teach and value local history and sustainability issues like historic preservation, the common good, etc.

Q3 - What is your vision for the Springfield area in the Year 2030?

Qualifications required for serving on certain city volunteer boards - like in Europe, where you can't be on the zoning board unless you have a degree in urban planning, for example. Not as a threshold to keep people out, but to make sure qualified people aware of the key issues are leading [for example so that developers don't dominate and make eyesores like Glenstone, Campell, Kearney, and Battlefield (essentially fantastically long strip malls that you can only get to via a car)].

We embrace our route66 history and use it to promote preservation and tourism.

Green space around the city. No more urban sprawl; a fixed city boundary and the farmland outside the boundary preserved and protected for green space and space for growing local food.

large areas for community gardening within the city limits and in each major area of the city (Rountree, Phelps Grove, Grant Park, etc).

Smart zoning - that takes the car OUT of the equation - i.e. (studies show that people will drive to a supermarket or other store unless it is within 1/2 mile of where they live; this is especially relevant to subdivisions that have a single access road out to a major artery built on farmland; forcing residents to have to drive anywhere to get services; force developers to build services directly into any new developments to eliminate the car).

Plan with the vision of NOT using the car. Densify but keep single family housing as the aim; but low income housing as well. Require landlords to live in the neighborhoods in which they live.

Community police - police officers live in every city section and and work/serve in the neighborhood in which they live.

Vibrant farmers markets.

Make it so people can live, without having to use/own a car.

mass transit (trolley car? - A map of Springfield from 1938 from the MSU library shows trolley lines EVERYWHERE throughout the city, you could get practically anywhere without a car; sad to see none of that has survived).

the police fire pension is paid off, the streets are easy to navigate and traffic flows smoothy, bike lanes and efficient bus routes

curb side leaf pick up in the fall, provided by the city, so I don't have to borrow my neighbors truck and trailer and haul them all in 5 or 6 trips

A city that is crime-free and business-friendly, and that stands out in Missouri and the Midwest.

A city that is much more walkable and pedestrian-oriented. Passenger train service. Higher densities.

Family oriented town with all the eminitities which enables one the need to not travel outside of the area to enjoy thingsa that a town of this side should have

Fewer cars per address

Public transportation and density

More bicycle friendly

More recreational areas

Fifty percent self sufficient

Variety of housing options – less focus on single-family houses

Concept of villages and co-housing

No smoking

No homeless

Comprehensive agricultural policy

Land use policy

Local processing

Q3 - What is your vision for the Springfield area in the Year 2030?
Farm to institution
Agra farmer's market
No urban flooding
Institution government funded to compensate farmers that are asked to not allow land to be developed
Good nursing homes
Public transportation
Vibrant downtown
Need the energy around things that need the energy, i.e., momentum
Look at what's good and maximize it
Need to know when to be involved and spread information and share the needs of community
Reinvestment in neighborhoods, real estate, and infrastructure
Continue to recruit sporting events
Fund sports commission
More diversity

Q4 - How can you help us get there?

This needs to be a community effort

By paying attention to community issues, getting involved with large-scale community development projects (when I'm provided an opportunity to do so), and living my life more sustainably.

By promoting the City and all it has to offer.

Make suggestions such as the above, if any cares. Continue spending income in the City. Encourage those in power to bring in people with institutional knowledge of needs rather than trying to keep reinventing the wheel.

this Anonymous suggestion box is the first step and needs to be expanded

Looking for ways we all can help the city reach its long term goals. Get involved with the input process.

I AM WILLING TO DO ANYTHING TO HELP US GET THERE

Continue to vote against tax increases & help to force the local gov't to be more accountable for their spending habits!

What kind of help do you need?

We have a local company, GladeWinds. <http://www.gladewinds.com>. We have products and services for residential and commercial sustainability.

We also are involved with Well Fed Neighbor.

Continuing to work in the community and encourage family and friends that Springfield is a great place to call home.

Volunteering.

Hold lots of brainstorming sessions. Only a few citizens may have the time to attend multiple committee meetings and/or the skills to help draft detailed plans, but most everyone can share ideas to help keep the process fresh. Give a prize for the crazies

bring some jobs or we are going to lose a lot of people due to no work

By resisting the push to expand government, by reducing spending on parks, by not wasting taxpayer money on non-essential government spending & silly city projects (like Wayfinding signs), by reducing support for non-profits and by demanding efficient/honest

Shop in the small businesses and I do

I currently volunteer where I can - and I stay educated about current issues and activities within our city and I vote in every election.

Need some incentives for our community young people to participate in fulfilling our visions.

Vote; participate in government rather than just expecting government to take care of everything for me; make my voice heard.

willingness to volunteer for various boards, something I have done in the past.

Be more involved in community events and raise awareness among family and friends.

I can try to vote for Council members who are broad-minded and do not follow the pack. We need fresh ideas and attitudes. Some of the employees who are rooted in their departments are not doing us any good and need to be evaluated based on the needs of the

I will contact the Mayor and city council to change the law, so CU can spin off the transit company.

First, be part of a panel that seriously addresses the current public transportation system. There are gaps and differences between the citizens the city would like to see use public transit and the ones that already must use public transit that I'd like

Next, I think there are neighborhoods that, because they do not really connect to a bigger part of our city, are neglected in public view and are more subject to negative factors such as vandalism, domestic issues, and other nuisances and crimes. The

Q4 - How can you help us get there?

by giving this advice.

more, better community involvement

uhhh.....

quit telling everyone what a great city this is!!

Vote and support the local infrastructure.

hire more police and fire

I'm an active recycler and try to reuse what I have. More people need to do this as well. Honestly, I have family members that I can't convince to change their wasteful behavior. So I don't know how to get people on board here. Perhaps there are Programs

answer more surveys?

Willingness to serve on committees within the city. I am a retired education administrator.

I promise not to be a NIMBY! By embracing growth and understanding that things will change. I understand that change won't always be perfect or picturesque or exactly what I might want but we have to be willing to move forward and grow or we will start dy

Where there is a vote, vote the best people into the offices.

I can create a reason for people to visit and work to combine the creative minds and talent here to produce worthwhile events.

I would instantly support a referendum to cut all property taxes in half, much like we had in

California in the `70s. In fact, I would take a leadership role in such an effort. Each city and city-county government division needs to have multiple volunteer (not appointed) citizen action groups routinely assessing effectiveness and services. We pay

Get police and fire staffing back to 100%. I'd also like to see better/more logical public transportation. A downtown community center that encourages culture and fun, like St. Louis's City Museum.

I have the benefit of having lived many places before we moved to Springfield. I am active in my community in several areas, including serving on the Library Board. I have also been in the construction industry for over 15 years, working with both governm

keep doing what I'm doing.

Recuit friends and neighbors to get involved in the effort.

By filling out surveys that might convey our wants and needs!

Keeping housing prices stable and interest rates low so people will come to the community and will need more businesses to come in.

I don't know

I will support efforts to maintain and grow our community. I am a health educator and will continue to offer free classes for the betterment of our community.

Elect a New Generation into the City & County Government and oust out the OLD Farts.

Run, don't walk, to your nearest church which Springfield has plenty of and get saved before it's too late!

Support to the current business people already there, to spend my dollars with them instead of online or to some national trade restaurant chain. Speak to the successes and not the problems with my friends and family.

Can't help if you won't listen. Most listening tours are a scam; Have tried to present new ideas but got turned away several times. Too costly to do small development. planning dept always used the excuse "It's not in our regulations" kind of covers havin

Expertise in planning/zoning and development, tax credits.

Paticipate in organizing or planning as time allows

Q4 - How can you help us get there?

Change will happen without "help" from citizens. The question is will the community continue to dialogue on key issues and will govt. listen to that dialogue.

I would suggest that the city planners begin to initiate some programs designed to utilize or encourage investors/builders to develop vacant interior land, tear down old, abandoned buildings, and begin constructing energy-efficient green-type homes with

Maybe we could organize sort of a local "peace corps" where local citizens could use their professional talents to assist the community on a nonmonetary basis. Everyone has some talent they can assist with, volunteer at a library, or as a teacher's aid, o

you tell me

By supporting our city council in using funds wisely for programs with a definite priority and delaying projects that are not of immediate importance.

Be participatory in events that are here and new ones as well.

I'm a real estate broker, so research, marketing, advertising...

I will continue to buy and support local businesses.

There are many times when Springfield tries to "re-invent the wheel" on issues like homelessness where a volunteer commission of folks who have knowledge of other of communities' programs that work well. Why not make commissions available for those of us

Get involved, educate myself on what goes on in our City. I need to stay informed.

Be resistant to change for the just for the sake of growth. You push for growth while simultaneously chiding the public for more tax dollars for police pensions, new schools, fresh water and infrastructure cost for that same growth. It is a senseless cycle

Not sure.

ride my bike to work

I live north of Sunshine and I love it. I encourage all of our friends to live there. I hope to stay and invest in the area myself, but I do think the education opportunities for my children will play a huge factor.

Entice larger clean industry with incentives like lower property taxes for a period of time; develop a free port (as incentive to export) and teach entrepreneurs how to export (at universities); and build green schools and infrastructure with alternative

I am in the commercial real estate business and can promote the city to new businesses

Vote accordingly, I am in favor of private property rights

Vote!

By continuing to push for the types of financial initiatives that will promote that type of regional leadership

Filling out this survey.

Ask me. I do not understand the complexity of making decisions that make economic sense for the city and the community. Hire a new city manager without ego and with a personality.

Continue to shop Springfield and support our city.

Promote this area, some people don't what we have here

By developing downtown properties. By going to dinner downtown and attending parades and other events downtown.

vote for those who appear to agree with my philosophies.

Continuing to educate. Excessive regulation, which increases housing (and commercial) cost will hurt our growth projects in many ways.

Investment and development.

Q4 - How can you help us get there?

Building, selling, and renting new and resale domiciles to make Springfield an attractive place for residents to come to.

Well I haven't really thought about that. I'll have to get back to you on that one.

By shopping and planning my purchases in springfield.

By being a contributor rather than a taker/user.

What kind of help do you need to see what is going on in our city? Look at what is not on the north side and what you have too much of on the south side. You are letting commercial zoning encroach too closely on neighborhoods on the south side. You are ru

Proper stimulus in areas of economic strengths i e trucking, transportation, new constuction in surrounding ares

Keep paying my taxes, do not raise taxes, be more efficient and better planning

Elections

voting against taxes, when not needed.

By supporting like-minded efforts/people.

buy local products to create sales tax?

By creating new corridors of developement you encourage new businesses to Springfield, places for me to spend my money.

Support city leaders, be apart of communities of interest people that will encourage our colleges to offer more degrees (maybe law, engineering) so our younger generation will want to live and work here. Volunteer.

My husband and I are planning on moving to Commercial Street in the next year and have purchased a building We are hoping to help tip the area (and start being able to walk to more things).

pay more to help offset mandatory recycling; continue to stay put in the area with the hopes that more diverse individuals such as myself will enter the area; serve on a citizen board/committee promoting/fostering arts, entertainment, diversity, young adu

If someone would lead then myself and city will follow. Our recent history has not been sufficient

Proper planning of neighborhoods, not restricting construction of neighborhoods with foolish requirements that frustrate and frighten good developers from coming into the city to build neighborhoods.

Be the best person I can. Give of myself as I have. One has to be in tune with the Holy Spirit to do this. I do not attend Church so I'm not preaching.

I'm a retired college instructor, and I would certainly consider being a part of whatever you think would be helpful. Just get in touch at my e-mail address below.

Promote and vote for govt officials who do not suffer from cranialrectosis

We are helping the Springfield Regional Arts Council and the Springfield Sister Cities Association to use technology and Web 2.0 in an artistic and engaging way to portray Springfield in a positive light.

At 80 years old, probably not much but will do what I can to push for a growing and improving future for all.

not sure.

Remain informed about civic issues. Vote. Participate in citizen initiatives and organizations like the League of Women Voters. Volunteer, especially in the public schools.

I would be interested to serve on committees/boards and have always supported any tax proposals to benefit our community. I live in northeast Springfield and I would be willing to help with any iniciative that would improve that area.

Q4 - How can you help us get there?

Willing to answer to the call for service if the City decides to take action. Serve on planning committees, host meetings, facilitate and participate in planning activities.

I hope to part of the solution in making our community vision a reality. I look for committees and boards to get involved that might best fit my experience and talents and will continue to do so.

My wife and I are helping by buying up slumlord properties in West Central and converting them to upscale single family homes. However, we can't do it all and need other developers to discover what a great opportunity exists in West Central.

I will continue to invest in the community by building my business, supporting the City, paying my taxes, and being an informed, engaged citizen.

probably can't

I'd be willing to volunteer my time to help evaluate where the City can incorporate native plants within the stormwater system.

I won't build a skyscraper

work on fixing up houses in poor area's of town.

Volunteer service, particularly on city boards and committees.

Stay involved.

responding to more city surveys, serving on committees, volunteering

I am rehabbing residential and commercial properties in the center city and West Central area.

I would like to be involved in a "slumlord clearance" regulation/oversight to clean up the area and cut down on crime that is associated with unscreened tenants.

You tell me.

Continue to come downtown to shop and eat.

We have already begun by investing in two small businesses downtown. I am actively involved with a number of business owners who are committed to being in Springfield for at least another decade if not longer. I am willing to serve on committees, boards,

You tell me! I'd be happy to volunteer when work needs to be done assuming that I agree with the end result.

Maintain and promote high standards.

Buy and fix up a property of my own.

Keep asking.

Although I work in Springfield I am not a resident

By better understanding city issues and insuring that I make the effort to elect the best people into the positions to make things happen.

I am committed to implementing the efforts the YMCA is making towards promoting healthy lifestyles in our community.

We can have recycling as part of all regular trash pick-up. I would like to see no more plastic bags at grocery stores or other shops. We should all use reusable bags.

I would like to see budgeting for education and the elderly together, so that not one group feels left out- they are both important.

I would like to see more people involved in city meetings. Keep neighborhoods informed and encourage neighborhood participation (perhaps at least 1 person from each neighborhood association).

I would like the city not to be a sucker for people like those who are 'buying' the Heers building. The terms are the terms! Default and you're out. Just when do we mean business???

We spend money like on the airport and trying to on the city square- is that REALLY essential now? NO

Q4 - How can you help us get there?

Volunteer. Continue to be a responsible adult and educate my children.

I am happy to donate and to volunteer time (off work hours) to community projects that I believe in. For example, I will be supporting the Ozark Greenways, the Junior League, Convoy of Hope, the Dickerson Park Zoo, and the Springfield Regional Arts Council

As a broad suggestion, we might look to Chattanooga, TN as example of how a small city can build a great community. Chattanooga is very similar to Springfield in population size, natural environment, and higher education opportunities. In the past decade,

1. Vote Democrat.

2. Participate in community groups.

3. Support schools and colleges.

4. Support the arts.

I am a strong advocate for a technology park that would allow me and others to expand our workforces and grow our technology firms. There are many small technology firms located in this area that with a little help could vastly change the employment horizon

I don't know for sure but will try and be involved in some areas.

Invest time and energy into helping our community focus on the kind of jobs we need to create in a knowledge-based economy.

pay taxes, possibly attend meetings, volunteer, and participate in planning

keep talking

I am willing to attend some meetings or give my 2 cents, be an advocate for initiatives that make sense.

Solicit more volunteers from the community, make sure that bureaucracy does not get in the way of the spirit of volunteerism

Clap when you make a good decision

volunteer to participate in the process, and give input on solutions, and ideas to help the City with its long term goals

I work, pay taxes and contribute as I can to services for those in need. I am willing to contribute my talents and knowledge to make Springfield a better place to live.

informal electorate/citizenry

good newspaper

more public dialogue

change in cultural attitude with no trust for government

be willing to pay for what we want

reinvigorate attitude of public sphere

need strong private/public discourse

economic development

work towards problems together, not expect government or others to take care of problems

peer mediation

planning to move closer to central bus hub to use buses more.

creating urban garden at downtown church

walking to work as often as possible

voting for tax increase to support green initiatives

integrate sustainable concepts into strategic plan

allow Environmental Advisory Board to be a voice

as for advice from this board

integration of multiple services, ideas, and educations

Q4 - How can you help us get there?

getting community involved via volunteerism -- faith-based groups
need to sell vision to the public
use groups to share their part with other groups
public perception
buying locally so sales tax grows
more gardens
promote more urban lifestyle as individuals
be involved in organizations
vote
volunteer and participate in strategic planning process
need more education of opportunities to assist
serve on City boards
youth and young professionals involved on boards/organizations
vote
serve as resource/sounding board on issues ranging from mundane to major
ask local businesses for Help Desk
apply to be a bike-friendly community to gain status
PR campaign to drive less, live more
be civically engaged for Council meetings, legislative issues
vote
complain about problems
get involved with groups, council meetings, serve on boards.
facilitate IDEA Commons from policy to zoning -- unlimited potential
push through negativism and pessimism
get help from private investors
MOState efficient and solid in recruiting top faculty and students -- create environment where we keep best/brightest here
be good at what we do
importing best and brightest from other locations -- 52% of students from outside SGF
serves to bring in new ideas, keeping students engaged in community and schools.
need for more civic engagement specific to current situations -- MOState play key role/be more visible.
encourage faculty/staff to volunteer for Boards/Commissions
take momentum from recent vote and build
get engaged
invest time
serve on boards and commissions
be aware of issues occurring in community, city and council.
vote
promote what employees are responsible for -- tell our story as employees
stay positive and involved
teach kids to be more involved at young age
I'm already working on these things as a volunteer.
support taxes
retired to lend hand to volunteer efforts
be good neighbours

Q4 - How can you help us get there?

complete revision in school property taxes

volunteer

run for office

be committed

be politically active -- invite people into houses and get civically engaged

support tax increases

advocate person-to-person, discuss, and be willing to show up

less petty bickering about funding, prioritization

pay attention to open information and records

get involved

civic organizations must continue to be engaged

continue the volunteer corps at CVB

city should tap into CVB at every opportunity on subjects that have to do with visitors, travel, tourism

I would like to be on the planning committee for the arts. I have experience in this area, and I also have business management experience. I would be glad to volunteer.

community helps prioritize goals and buy in

cannot tolerate ignorance - must foster study of important issues

work on impression of Springfield outside community to build support for priorities

decrease sense of entitlement that government should provide whatever people want

participate in focus groups

band together -- unsure whether individual actions really make a difference

vote

get engaged in neighborhoods

improve neighborhoods with private investment

break down barriers that prevent more people from coming to meetings -- provide childcare

create stronger sense of belonging

allow comments on city website

appreciate people who do make efforts

better the neighborhood organization - more leadership training

stay involved and support change

know the facts and educate peers

educate kids below high school about issues

Provide continued input and resources based on sound research and good examples from other cities nationwide.

Community service on panels, commissions, task force groups

Public education

Insight / participation in developing 14+ community vision and action plans from the SW MO region

Original Vision 2020 - Center City member

Neighborhood Association President and board member

Well, I don't want us to get to that poor future that I see. What I want to do is convince enough people that the current direction is maladaptive. I can convince people that things need to change for the good of us and for the good of this city.

Doing my part individually to address the above.

Pay my taxes

Q4 - How can you help us get there?

Submit ideas...thanks for opening the floor

I truthful dont want to help because Alot of your infrastructure for young photoraphers is free labor which is a small reason why most business owners tell young photographers to not work in this city in the first place.

I would love to serve on an advisory board if I can manage time commitment. As Springfield resident who works in Bolivar (at SBU), I want to see the area grow in the right direction so our grads will stay in the area!

Good question. I volunteer in a few organizations. Activism. Spend dollars here.

Stay informed and vote.

Community Education.

Willingness to participate in any way allowed and feasible.

voicing my values

I may be able to serve on a committee, even though I live in Greene County. I'm 66, have served as an associate pastor in Springfield the past six years and served as Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Evangel University 1981-1996.

EDUCATE the people. Tell them HOW there goverment works for them.

- Live in city limits
- Support downtown/Commercial Street and other north-side business districts
- Support spay/neuter efforts and Humane Society
- Support higher-education institutions
- Stay living here despite the pull to go to larger metro area

I'm involved in a great church seeking to address poverty issues, and teaching disadvantaged moms basic life skills. I'm involved in its volunteer ministries.

By voting out government control freaks.

Word of mouth and a positive attitude when encountering people and telling them about a great new locally owned business or other local experience, hoping to instill a similar attitude in the process.

Working on some of those houses with paint and inside work.

This is late and I do not expect anyone to use it if it is too late

pick up trash

vote

encourage voting among peers

vote on city issues and not just national elections

be willing to help, have a positive attitude about change

be on strategic planning committees

think green for the future

get over the "too young to make an impact" mindset.

Chamber Board considers themselves a full partner with city to accomplish goals

Individuals to make a strong effort to promote the greater good instead of individual agendas

Willingness to take risks, stand together, and take a position

Importance of social capital

Religious communities help support business initiatives

Call to action and priorities set to help set direction of community

Need leadership up front to change direction

Funding plan

Need to encourage next generation to get involved

Q4 - How can you help us get there?

Become very proactive in terms of public and private partnerships, i.e., small business, neighborhoods, elderly groups, faith groups, etc.

Accountability and credibility

Besides voicing my opinion? Nothing, really.

My church, the Vineyard Church, is involved in the Grant Beach and West Central Neighborhood associations, partnering with other ministries and secular organizations that foster community building events and community service. My hope is that God will bri

I can actually knock on my neighbor's door and learn their first and last name and something significant about their life, pray for them regularly and just try to love them.

I would love for the citizens of Springfield to be able to fill out more detailed questionnaires such as this. Even though I think this is a great tool, I don't feel that the city really takes our opinions to heart. It seems like nothing changes here.

Volunteer opportunities

Service projects with school kids

Kids develop parks (like CCC camps in the past)

More opportunities for people to do community service for teens

Build better neighborhood communities

Allow more daycares

After school clubs could do community projects

Libraries to have extended hours open

Promote small businesses and local businesses instead of big chains like Wal-Mart

Continue to talk about the issues, spread the word in any way you can

Agencies should stop competing against each other for money and start figuring out ways to simply bring the money to the community in any way we can

Approach out state reps off-session, rather than always approaching them during the crazy period during the session

Better informed business community – a greater connection between civic and biz groups

Vote

participating when possible

staying here after graduation from college

Volunteering.

Support the Springfield area financially by shopping, using the regional facilities and working in Springfield.

I could be willing to lend a hand with construction.

I don't think I can. My life expectancy is about 5 more years.

Paying for my share of the improvements.

My family can continue to survive here in Springfield with increased job opportunities. So work, honestly and with integrity to represent our locale.

Fire 90% of the city government administration including the new manager.

I don't know.

Working together with like minded individuals towards those things that we can agree on.

I would like to prevent us getting there making Missouri and the US more independent

I'm not from here, nor do I like the petty politics that pervade this city. Dealing with people so stupid that they can't see they'll make more money being semi honest than on the stupid small time schemes... is just annoying.

So I guess that means I can't help!

Q4 - How can you help us get there?

Vote for those with fiscal responsibility as their priority.

I'm not sure. Vote, I guess!

Clean simple answers get over all of the political correct crap ... voters know the better answers are not what they have been getting ... change things during your term, go against the stream, you would look so refreshing that even the opposition would

By completing surveys like this one and being available to participate in community input/Q&A meetings.

I will tell as many people as I can what my opinions are and hope to get enough people agreeing to get an initiative started.

By supporting initiatives to redevelop the city center and voicing opposition to out of town development.

By visiting and supporting the arts and natural facilities within the city.

Appreciate the citizens Springfield has and don't make matters worse by bringing in outsiders who will be on the welfare rolls and raise the amount of child and spousal abuse.

I have applied to be a member of one of the strategic planning boards, and currently serve the city in a variety of volunteer roles. Springfield is a city that needs a new generation of leaders to move it into the 21st century, and I believe I can be one

Programs that make our city more efficient and clean. (water usage, reducing energy consumption, recycling, organized efforts in communities) I recycle and take full advantage of the city facilities that are available.

More people might do the same if trash companies were made to promote that service. But I think it goes beyond having to seek it out from your trash company. Companies should have more social and environmental responsibility to make sure each household is

I've seen mailings to organize water efforts in my community and when to water grass in the summer time. This is a great start.

Serve on non-profit boards... help my business continue to have success and grow.

Be involved, willing to listen/compromise when appropriate and base my decisions on informed and reliable facts.

In construction be sure asnd account for rain water run off, if you alter the archecture of mother nature you need to take into consideration and do necessary improvement s fro change in the terrain.

Support initiatives that are inclusive of the greatest number of organizations and citizens; including support of well thought out and thouroughly and clearly explained tax initiatives that include defined hoped-for outcomes and accountability.

Well I do pay my taxes.

I'll wait and see.

participate in the plannning process

Vote for increased facility building funds for the Parks Department.

I can help in part by serving in a public capacity. Keep my property clean and neat. Watch out for my neighbors and report questionable activity. I expect the City to do its part, too.

When the investigating body is the perpetrator, it leaves very little room for resolution. Example, Internal affairs for the Springfield Police department. I do my part every day. The balls in your court.

Elect better city managers and leaders. Ones who can "get it done"

VOTE!

Q4 - How can you help us get there?

DEVELOP A COMMON VISION FOR OUR FUTURE; COMMUNICATE THAT VISION AND WIN ACCEPTANCE OF IT; SET GOALS TO ACHIEVE IT; ENGAGE VARIOUS GROUPS--I.E., BUSINESS, INDUSTRY, ACADEMIA, THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY--IN MEETING INDIVIDUAL GOALS WITHIN AN OVERALL STRATEGIC

Willing to work hard with others to make it happen!

by joining forces with others who want to make a difference

Stopped coddling repeat offenders...You need a three strikes law like CA has. Third crime and put them away forever. Career criminals will never reform !!!!

Word of mouth promotion, especially in run-ups to elections.

Anything I can do to help

Work hard for economic development, funding for education & transportation infrastructure, participate in forward thinking strategic planning.

Hire me; pay my taxes;

Voting for candidates who have new and progressive ideas

By staying involved and answering questions such as this.

I don't know.

Good Governmental and political decisions by locally elected officials

I could support a tax that would either improve our parks system to keep them competitive around the state and keep minor league sporting tournaments coming to Springfield or a tax to help attract another large attraction that would create more tourism d

Not proliferate

No inbreeding

Not voting for Sarah Palin

I will help get Springfield there by first start "going green" myself.

I have served on the traffic advisory board for several years and still trying to get driver training in schools and safety messages out in the media.

I would direct you toward a working relationship with the Well-Fed Neighbor Alliance. You'll find me and a bunch of other wonderful assets to your City there! Rumor is, some of you are already serving as member assets of the WFNA. ;)

Tell the professional haters to shut the bleep up and run for office themselves.

Individual responsibility is a big part of it ... and I certainly do my part. I do lots of community work, and that is important too.

be a good citizen, buy local, shop local, seek out farmers market, vote, research, read, understand the issues,

you got this far without me, ps-- thanks to local blogger Jackhammer who linked to this site.

I support the Missouri Fair Tax.

Regarding most of what I wrote, I'm not really sure. However, I would very much be willing to volunteer to help clean up vacant lots, pick up trash, etc.

Partnering

Leveraging resources between city /county/civic organization to get buy in

Be involved

Go to education groups and ask advice

Information regarding groups to serve on

Could look as individuals and attempt to serve on committees

Look at universities and encourage diversity to stay in community

Solve pension plan

Q5 - Additional Comments about Springfield's long-range planning process

I am glad we have one. Keep up the good work!

Again bring more modern companies/jobs to the area.

I would suggest you consider using citizen committees to address each particular area of the plan (perhaps something similar to what Lebanon's new Mayor recently assembled - and, yes, I understand why we would not want to emulate Lebanon in any other way).

As an "outsider" the city seems caught between progressive young people and a vocal minority of people who seem to be against anything "new." The City really needs to work to get the former involved instead of letting certain "critics" lead the discussion.

include representatives of citizen groups especially neighborhood watch organizations.

Hope it is accomplished in an intelligent comprehensive manor.

I think it would be a good idea for City leaders to take issues of sustainability into account when making decisions regarding the long-term. It would also be a good idea to more effectively communicate the logic behind why decisions are being made the way they are. I think the community listening tour is a great idea, and it could serve as a model for new ways to introduce leaders to their constituents, and to provide leaders with a mechanism for obtaining citizen input in the policy-making process.

We love Springfield

Revenue, revenue, revenue! Think about an employment tax, waivers of licenses for business until the recession lifts, taxing internet commerce, contacting successful cities and learning and implementing their programs that work. Look at disastrous cities to make sure we are not headed in a bad direction. What about places like Eureka Springs? What can we do to make our city a not spot like that--I don't think it's a big, boxy sports store. Make the Finance Department gather info on 100 projects that other cities, states and countries have initiated to increase revenue; have them present this report to the CM and CC, and get cracking on some of these proven efforts. This is not rocket science. I worked as a contracted director for the city and county's DWI program and we had the most successful one in the country because we skimmed the cream off the top of all known programs and implemented them. But while I was in that position I encountered laziness, carelessness and ineptitude in the city departments. The city should not have to count on appointed boards and committees to get its work done; we have employees for that if something or someone will motivate them to work. And if they won't work, at least they should inform the CM when the building is on

Continue great communication gathering projects like this one. Greg Burris has done a great job so far. He has made the hard decisions to help Springfield start moving back in the right direction.

worked on 20/20 program, loved that, great to see some of it being realized.

Thanks for asking! Unless you live in an area with an active neighborhood association, (I live in the Southern Hills with a dormant association, I even called the city and they couldn't tell me if they ever meet or have a contact person), you feel left out of local government.

It's a good idea but keep the government small and not regulate everything so that it is hard to open a business. That is all government

Plans are made by unaccountable, out of touch elitists who then see their plans as mandates that must be followed despite real-world conditions. Concentrate on planning for the delivery of essential services, and make that the plan.

Fix public transportation.

Solicit more involvement from the people in the City for major community projects.

Q5 - Additional Comments about Springfield's long-range planning process

I think the city should focus a lot less on things like red lite cameras and tourist attractions and more on making this a place to retire to. Improving the looks of neighborhoods by getting rid of shacks and forcing landlords to fix up their properties. This also helps to reduce crime somewhat.

I think when you talk to people from different parts of the city about visiting different sections of the city, the reactions you get may be a hint into some of the issues that must be addressed in any long-range plan. For example, there are different ideas about what Park Central Square is really like, ranging from the celebration of First Night and the proposed development of the Heer's building to issues of homelessness, people who think they are vampires, and other rumors about crime. If a larger survey was sent out about how people view different neighborhoods in the city, I think it would assist greatly in what areas need to be addressed/cleaned up as well as how to develop and unify all of the city into one great place to live.

I would like to see the city council and mayor have less of a small town attitude and bring more manufacturing plants to Springfield, not just service jobs, so the base wages would increase in Springfield.

hire more police and fire

Make available the long range plans and be careful to not stretch the plans beyond 10-15 years max. Have strategic locations for plans to be picked up south, north, east, west parts of the city. Publicize regularly, each year, of the cities strategic plans.

do something about the pension, it goes too far

Our city is great. Yet, there is always room for improvement.

I think it is important that you continue to bring stakeholders to the table and listen to the citizens. I also think you should have a goal of investing in real, comprehensive DATA for your decision-making that compliments the citizen input. You need more and better data to share with both your staff and the citizens. How much of our sales tax is generated by various industries, for example? How much from retail (and within that, different segments of retail), from the sale of construction related goods, from hotel nights/tourism, from car sales, etc.? If we had this data, we might be more willing to support growth and investment in various sectors of the economy; we could more openly support zoning changes and other development that demonstrates a tangible return in jobs, purchased goods from our local businesses, sales tax revenue, etc. If we understood, for example, the portion of overall sales tax revenue that is generated in a year by the mall or the Sam's Clubs, perhaps we would be able to grasp more readily how important it is for us to approve a development like the 60/65 project. Frankly, to develop more objective and easily communicated criteria for this type of decision-making should be part of your plan also -- projects that create "X" number of jobs, "X" amount of sales tax revenue and are consistent with our citizen embraced objectives receive fast track it's basically a joke.

Good luck moving forward with the current budget constraints! (That is said with all sincerity.)

In the past, long-range planning has been by appointment, not by citizen action. That needs to change. Also, I've attended public hearings where nearly 100% of the citizens were not interested in a proposal, but the officials voted in favor because they "knew more" and were certain they were "smarter" than the public. Much like our federal government behaves today.

Decrease some budgets and lower taxes.

Only control the flow of the markets, do not try to control or shape the markets in commercial and residential real estate.

Reduce the desire to control through regulation. Concentrate on economic growth.

Protect those who create jobs.

Q5 - Additional Comments about Springfield's long-range planning process

Springfield needs to become less

Improve school systems

Keep it real and don't complicate it too much because as we just found out with the economy the money doesn't always just flow! We need to be aggressive but yet conservative and not over spend!

A city can easily die if its core dies. Stop building parking garages and focus on real redevelopment. Encourage small business entrepreneurs to open by extending your hand to them.

Springfield is the third largest community in Missouri. It needs to start thinking like the major community it is becoming

Are we open to more manufacturing companies coming into the area? How are we attracting jobs, other than service jobs?

Make it easier for a developer to develop property, do not base approval on the neighbors...if the developer bought and paid for the property, and is paying the taxes, he should be in control, not the naysayers.

City leaders and staff (specifically zoning, building services, public works & traffic departments) need to have a customer service attitude. Ask the question, how can we as a city make it happen for a new business? New employees should have this attitude and older employees should be trained to have the same attitude

No

Plan for parks and green space. Love those - thank you!

Thanks for your hard work!

Spend time planning on how to operate the city in the same frugal and conservative manner that reflects the values of the average citizen.

I would like to see homeowners not forced out of their long line generation properties.

Get new people in here to lead from successful cities so that we do not continue down the same old dead-end roads.

A solution needs to be made for homeless service providers that doesn't continue to put one area of the city at a major disadvantage.

I would like to see the quality of life remain with more opportunities for our young people to stay here and find good paying employment.

don't put lots of governmental restrictions or taxes. They will kill growth and our economy.

I think the biggest problem is development that will enhance real estate speculation and encourage potential businesses and homeowners to re-locate here.

do not think just from the business perspective but continue to make our residential base an attraction to new people. This is what feeds our businesses... when people decide they want to LIVE here, not just visit.

I think it needs a much better PR system. most people have no idea what the long range plans are for the community. Also it should be coordinated with area communities such as Republic, Nixa, Ozark better so all are on the same page so to speak.

Managed growth assumes those making the decision have some understanding of what the future may hold or should hold. Past performance has not supported that assumption. Past performance has indicated that we do not know the future and the best judge for the future has been the interplay of market forces rather than bureaucratic decisions made by individuals who have no dollars at risk and no experience outside of government.

Q5 - Additional Comments about Springfield's long-range planning process

When my husband I get ready to retire in 10 years, we are personally planning on selling our big house and searching for a loft in downtown Springfield. We hope they are available and affordable when the time comes.

I don't live in the city so can not be involved, but would like to see coordination with Greene County.

Keep cutting expenses and become more streamlined, you still have too many employees.

I like a lot of what has happened growth wise and the national recognition that this is a quality area to live, work and retire in. I hope it continues

How 'bout tearing down less cool old houses and historical structures (like Turner Hall at Drury) and building less gentrified suburban style strip mall crap.

NO Officials over 40 years old.

I am pleased to see some much needed road construction/restructuring. We need to stay ahead of our growth and keep the road improvements coming!

no

Listen to the people not the money pushing for a specific project.

Keep it simple and focused. Give regular updates on progress to residents.

I hope the city takes on a more conservative budget in the future. If the city cuts out the waste and the bloat, there should be enough to make payroll and still have money for the different departments' budgets.

Please do what you can to reach out to minorities - the whole range of them (age, gender, race, sexual orientation). We do exist, and when approached the correct way will become engaged if asked. For Greg Burris and City Council, continue to be as transparent, if not more, as you take this new process out into the community. Yes, Sertoma, Rotary, Junior League, et al are great groups to talk to, but your speaking to the choir. Be sure to engage the opposition at least in bringing them to the table and trying what is reasonable with implementation of their ideas, so that we don't as a community have to listen to them gripe later about not being involved, as we have so much in recent history. Give plenty of notice if moving a program/plan into place. For those citizens not as engaged, it seems that they need several months and many opportunities to hear about a public plan for action before buying in to the notion (reference the early 2009 approach to putting the pension issue on the ballot). Good luck!

Why do we spend so much money on studies, when learning from other cities' redevelopment (across the country) would provide us with a certain amount of data as to what has work and what has not? Each town is unique, granted, but it seems as though Springfield always wants to reinvent the wheel with studies.

NO

Again, work closer with county to master plan and invest resources to direct growth where it makes sense.

Don't stop. I heard that you cut the department that did the long range planning because of budget cuts. That would be a terrible mistake!!! The future is all we really have don't ever stand still.

The influence of liberal educated and influenced people must be abated if we are to keep our property and individual rights!

jobs need to be brought in, avoid waste, avoid waste, avoid waste.

Build your city for the future not 3 to 5 years in the future.

I am totally against the long range plan to limit development by zoning land use . Telling landowners they can not sell their land to developers

Q5 - Additional Comments about Springfield's long-range planning process

Do not be in direct competition with local developers

I was born in Springfield and have lived here all my life...56 years. I love this city, but the zoning and planning has been a disaster over the last 25 years. Its raped the north side, causing the loss of businesses and services to the benefit of the south side. But now, the south side is beginning to suffer from the over-growth of commercial areas to the detriment of neighborhoods. Its a shame for the entire city.

It will never get easier. Fred May used to say, back when Vision 2010 was being done, that the city didn't need public transportation. It won't get cheaper and the need will be there.

The buildings that house the police and fire depts are very nice but I think we could use the old schools for police depts . they would have many offices and are just waiting to be occupied ! Probably to late! listen to the peoples opinions and majority!

Use good common sense not political good ole'boy rules to run the town. Protect our waterways, KEEP BUILDERS/DEVELOPERS FROM BUILDING ON OLD LANDFILLS, AND ABANDONED DUMPS.!!!!

Do it and do it openly and fairly.

I do know that money in the form of taxes, taxes, and more taxes will be asked from the private citizens. If all of them were making as much as most City Workers they could pay them and not complain.

Quit driving away new business; they are your only source of new tax revenue.

I have several suggestions about helping the homeless, improving our property-tax process, and providing uniform disaster status signs for area homes.

Keep working on it.

no

In the 90s and early 2000s there was a good outlook. I hope it does not go down the path of being anti-growth, anti-progressive

This is a good process and back on track with the Vision 20/20 meetings. Thanks

There has been some effort in making the planning process accessible to the public. I would encourage leadership to continue to involve the community and give the citizens some responsibility to identify solutions to community problems.

I think the listening tour and this survey are a great start. Regional planning is also in great need as urban sprawl has impacted the City greatly, so it needs to include regional economic strategies which can only aid support and sustainability for our city.

I think the city has been very progressive in the past few years. I think the original 2020 plan really got the leaders and community on track. I am happy to live in a community that is planning and looking to the future.

I hope you make it easy to participate by using the Internet as well as open meetings.

I think it's great that the City recognizes that it needs long term planning which involves the citizens. I didn't live here when Vision 20/20 was formulated but I can see the positive effects.

Though I think Mr. Burris has his hands full coming in at this point in time in Springfield's history, however I am really excited to him taking an active roll in the future of this city. He's doing an exceptional job and should be commended for the forward thinking.

No more gyms. I would like to see the outside trails and parks to grow.

Act rapidly. The highway systems (1-44 / 65, 65 / 60...) even though recently and presently being updated, are 5-10 years too late.

I would like to see Springfield continue growing and working closely with out lining cities.

housing program for lower income.

Q5 - Additional Comments about Springfield's long-range planning process

try to keep the homeless population down, the graffiti and gangs down, etc. so everyone feels safe in our town

Get neighborhoods involved.

Better communication with residents concerning the specifics of short and long term planning would be appreciated. Communication with the real estate community would be wise since those people have "up close and personal" information concerning the wishes of the people in Springfield and the surrounding area. (I already receive so many unsolicited e-mails. Instead of receiving one more e-mail to filter through, I would prefer an up-to-date website that contains info about Springfield's planning process.)

No.

God save us from the tea baggers, bigots, Limbaugh's Ditto Heads, and the News-Bleeder. There were once reasonable, thoughtful Republicans in this community, but if any survive they haven't the courage to contradict the tripe on the Voices page each day.

I commend the city for having the foresight to develop a long-range planning process, and for soliciting and valuing community opinion in the planning process.

They can't see the trees for the forest-yes, that is what I mean.

I think there should be better information out to the public about long range plans and a way to offer feedback

Emphasize: Listen to citizens, not just hear us.

Keep on doing a great job!

Just to think things out and don't over spend in areas that are not so important to real family and needs of most people. We need tourism some but overkill is not good.

Just to repeat, change the economic recruiting emphasis from volatile manufacturing jobs to high technology careers. Engage some of the technology leaders from this area in the process.

need to think of the people who don't have a car and make it easier for them to get around too because the more you could help them out some of them will help you out as well

Allow the harvest of deer in the city with archery equipment.

Let's look at larger communities we would like to model and learn from them. No need to reinvent the wheel here - take the best from those who have already made the mistakes and grow.

None at this time.

I appreciate the willingness on the part of the City leaders to solicit input of citizens on this very important subject.

I believe we have a moral obligation to plan for a future of limited resources.

Spend our tax dollars locally. Please.

Vision 2020 was a huge grassroots statement of the desired direction of the community

I am excited to see what we can do when we put our collective creativity and action plans together!

I wish you stop thinking about revitalising downtown an start to build up the whole city thats how New Orleans did it why can't you?

Be fiscally sound and realistic. Please try to grow the cultural and environmental aspects of the city.

Keep up the good work.

increase greenways, make them a priority please...make recycling a city-wide endeavor like other cities do.

Q5 - Additional Comments about Springfield's long-range planning process

Prior to the 21st Century Springfield was fairly on-target with where it was heading and how to get there. Since the start of the 21st Century Springfield's Leaders have been increasingly screwing up. It's time to listen, get educated, and get Springfield back on-track.

Arremmerog

If YOU don't educate the people YOU don't stand a chance !!!!!!!!!

Areas like downtown, Rountree and University Heights with a blend of homes, churches, schools and businesses are charming and create a sense of community and neighborhood. I would love to see builders, renovators and homeowners get some type of incentive to create/move into these type of neighborhoods rather than have another soulless, cookie-cutter subdivision on previously undeveloped land. Same goes for business: Do we really need another ugly strip mall to house yet another title loan business or Walgreens? I am all for business and jobs, but not development just for the sake of development (that rarely leads to jobs that actually last). Make any additional business and/or living districts smart and inviting. Pursue corporations that don't have presence in the city yet, businesses that people would be excited to welcome.

I just do not want to see a lot of Urban development to the point of hoping to make Springfield a large city.

No more Wal-Marts. Don't we have more than enough already? When large corporations come a'courtin' the city in the future, please be aware of their practices and policies before giving them the go-ahead to build.

This sounds very much like the "Vision 20/20" program that has been nothing but a pie in the sky wishlist for government intervention.

City government should continue to engage the Evangelical institutions that drive people to social action in their community. There should be regular communication between city officials and organizations like Convoy of Hope, Victory Mission, the Kitchen, Kids Against Hunger, and large influential churches in the Springfield region like James River and 2nd Baptist so that these institutions are aware of the areas of need in the Springfield area, and so that where the vision of these organizations and the vision of the city agree there can be a fruitful partnership. The city should also be regularly communicating with leaders of religious minorities--particularly Muslims who face far too many "These Colors Don't Run" bumper stickers--to ensure that Springfield is a safe place for diversity to thrive.

BRING MORE SERVICES TO NORTH SPRINGFIELD. BE CREATIVE! IT IS PATHETIC THAT A CITY SPRINGFIELD'S SIZE HAS ONLY ONE BEST BUY, TARGET, KOHLS, ETC... WHERE ARE THE CITY PLANNERS????? FIRE THEM!!!!!!

I'm sure the "plan" will enrich the few, mostly Center City landowners. More welfare for Butler & co, etc. Really, Springfield city government disgusts me more than Chicago - yeah they are crooked, but at least they get stuff done. Here the corruption just benefits a few idiots that can't even utilize it right, let alone do anything productive.

In the 60,s we had the perfect city. Lets get back to basics..Slowly bring the fire department back to red fire trucks (as replaced) with the gold trim and black and white police cars with the gold shield. and hire withen instead of outsiders that want to change our cit.

Look for ways to make us independent of other states

Make sure to cut programs rather then expand programs that count on a tax base that may not exist as the economy worsens.

Q5 - Additional Comments about Springfield's long-range planning process

I think it is good to look at possible preservation of Agriculture, keeping in mind that private rights to develop have to be considered. I like the efforts made for parks & rehab of downtown. I like the intersection improvements; diamond interchanges; and efforts for traffic corridors such as James River road that have attempted to improve traffic. It would be great to guide development to consider more green space, trees and "green" building.

Quit building and start maintaining. Limit spending, train bus drivers to drive on snow, quit plowing asphalt.....etc. etc.

Control your crime or it will destroy your economy

Yes, make concrete decisions and stick with them regarding growth. Stop tacking money from one fund to support another.

GET WITH THE PROGRAM! Springfield is the 3rd largest city in Missouri. Missouri is about 30 years behind large states; Texas, for example. We recycled near Fort Worth, TX more than 10 years ago. Find a company that can do the trash pick-up for the entire city, and eliminate the dozens of companies that now service Springfield. Make it affordable!

I imagine it will be geared more for the government to take more control of our lives...which is a great pity.

It is great to see the City's vision and using public input to better Springfield and the surrounding area.

Dredge Springfield Lake and burning the muck for energy.

I think this is a great process but should be done annually. The target is moving. Every year the city could see other opportunities and need to have the flexibility to change with the times. Nothing wrong with a 20 year plan as long as everyone knows that it could and probably should change.

Too much bureaucratic and political nepotism within the city's sphere of affluent influence!! Just look at some past leaders preferential treatment

There should be more responsible and less greedy people in the government.

Check the programs used in, and by, the city of University City/ St. Louis, Mo. a great example of heads-up management.

Implode Heers!!!

Let's make it real, input from everyone. We often tend to hear from and listen to the same group of individuals and groups.

Top-down planning is always fraught with the perilous promise of a "certain future." I believe municipalities and their citizens are better served when leaders position assets to take advantage of potential opportunities that arise when market forces act freely, rather than making detailed predictions about future growth trends and designing centralized planning based on those predictions.

No 1/4 cent tax for wayfinding or other stupid things. No double left turn lanes onto narrow congested streets.

Need better traffic planning. Better policing.

This is a great idea--thanks for even asking citizens about our opinions!

I APPLAUD CITY LEADERS FOR UNDERTAKING A PLANNING PROCESS THAT WILL ENGAGE A WIDE VARIETY OF CITIZENS IN WORKING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE CITY FOR EVERYONE.

NOTIFY PUBLIC BEFORE PASSING BILLS.

Why do we keep "redoing"...ex: the downtown plaza, etc.

Q5 - Additional Comments about Springfield's long-range planning process

There were schools on the northside, who just a few years ago that didn't even have dishwashing machines. Pipkin, Reed, and Jarrett Middle Schools are a disgrace. They are so dark when you enter them. Why is it so hard for Springfield to treat everyone equal. My personal belief is that it goes back to the hangings on the square. After that incident, some residents became victims of a city that feels they can do whatever they want to them. The little voice they have is muffled by city government. But in the end, God will judge.

I am willing to help where I can, but only if I believe in what I help with.

The city is in immediate danger of losing strong tax - paying families to the outlying areas. The city (including the school system) is quickly losing ground to the outlying communities.

Needs to be realistic and embrace concepts which support business development. Do not embrace more restrictions, regulation or other activities which hamper business development

A very good idea.

Let's get Jordan Valley finished.

Plan for road ways to handle the traffic flow.

Let us continue to be visionary, bold and move forward. Careful not to be hesitate of making changes that are in the best interest of our citizens. Always understanding that with our steps we open ourselves up to criticism but that can't deter our progress.

So much money has been soaked into the square... lordy. When will it end? I do think downtown has come a long way.. but I prefer to see that money spent on Jordan Valley park concept than continually changing the square.

Are we growing and taking steps for our future? Are we proactive and addressing issues before they happen? I'm out of the loop.

Include young people! To often, I see Springfield trying to make progress on the future of the city with boards comprised of the same people. Newer, younger board members could provide a fresh perspective that has been lacking in this city.

Knock down the Heers Building; Sick of hearing about that. Become a city with some skyscrapers like other cities our size. Think BIG for a change. Look at Branson. They have a wonderful convention center. Why is Springfield always 20 years behind????

I think they should stay out of the business of buying and selling real estate with taxpayer's money.

I think the city has slipped in providing basic services and must recover in this area before attempting to move forward

Every day in the paper we read about more stupid spending or corruption stop it now and then start spreading the good news - whoa what a contrast

Let the plan be flexible. When the economy is tanking, to have a city official justify spending money on 'extras' because that's what vision 20/20 said we wanted, --- things change. As I age and realize there'll come a time when I won't be driving or can't afford to drive, public transportation is high on my priority. Much more than parks and gardens. I feel that we have planned/done things based on Vision 20/20 -- and when circumstances changed the plan didn't. Just because we planned to eat ribeyes doesn't mean we can afford to eat ribeyes. Having a plan "B" doesn't mean we're not confident in plan "A".

Growth in size/use is dangerous. Even at 3% growth, a city would DOUBLE in 23 years.

I have often wondered by the City of Springfield does not provide funding for any of the MU Extension programs that benefit this community. The county provides funds but now that they have stuck it to Extension I think the city should step in and help in order to expand programs like the Master Gardeners and 4-H in to the city.

Q5 - Additional Comments about Springfield's long-range planning process

Thanks for the opportunity to speak my piece.

Sure, I could go on and on. Spend less, reap more, Grow Local, Buy Local, Eat Local....

I think a lot of great changes have been made in and around Springfield due to the effort of Vision 20/20 and others with ideas of thier own.

Work wwith additional air carriers to help lower travel cost.

BREAK UP THE GOOD OLD BOY CLUB!! A new-comer to this area is seen as a threat if he has anything on the ball and they make sure he doesn't get to play in their park!

CIVIC CENTER FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE.

Cultural events such as Art Walk and Cider Days that encourage groups and individuals to mix and get to know each other must continue.

Extend Kansas Exprway to the south to connect to Hwy 65.

Get rid of red light cameras.

Hire people in the city with their hands on our moneys who embezzle our moneys.

I would like to keep reaching out for new employers who will locate here.

Keep a constant eye on the regional implications and potential opportunities

Local media have warped the intent of that vision and this distraction must be seen as insignificant ratings fodder.

Parking tickets and ordinances alone do not strong community make.

rd5d

Sidewalks down Scenic Rd from the north to Grand St.

So, for example, if water or energy use grew by 3% a year, the city would be using twice as much water or energy after 23 years.

spread out, less reliant on the individual automobile, less urban sprawl, yet government must allow developers and individual landowners freedom to develop without mandating the family farm be kept as "green spaces". Such planning of Greene County limits the freedoms of landowners to get the highest and best use of their land.

STOP any "pork" spending.

Stop any notion that we taxpayers owe anything at all to the Heers building. Tear it down and fine the heck out of this so called developer who has nothing to offer but words.

The Springfield News-Leader needs to step it up for our community. I'm very disappointed in our local news-paper and their lack of "community." Sometimes days it seems like it only sows discord and strife by over-accentuating the negative and minimizing the positive in our city. Our local paper should not operate like a tabloid. Would love to see more positive things be Front Page news.

Treat every neighborhood the very same as any other. "A poor mans taxes still pay your salaries". We're all your boss.

Truly balance and discern the COST of fuel and it's implication for the future. WE ARE BEYOND PEAK OIL and 2030 is halfway to the end. You may want to refer to a book titled "\$20 per gallon". The Post WW II development paradigm is about to hit an epic tipping point.

Updating is important, but do so in a way that does not become mired in the difficulties of progress